

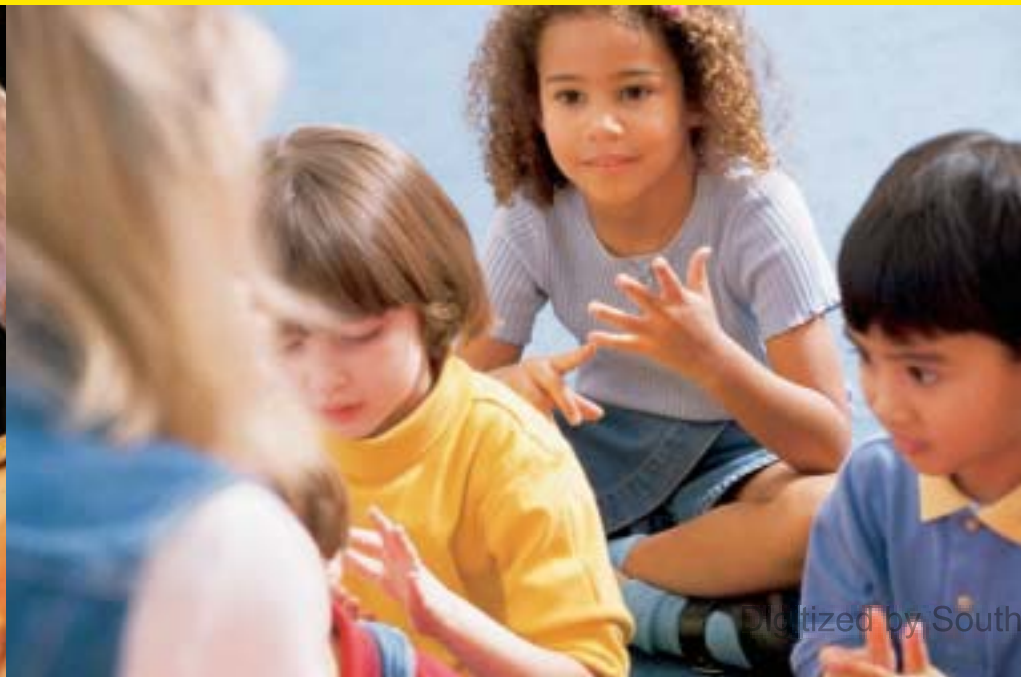
# KEEPING THE PROMISE

## Fifth Anniversary Report 1999-2004 Five Years of Results

SOUTH CAROLINA



Getting children ready for school.



## KEEPING THE PROMISE

“First Steps to School Readiness initiative established. There is established South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness, a comprehensive, results-oriented initiative for improving early childhood development by providing, through county partnerships, public and private funds and support for high-quality early childhood development and education services for children by providing support for their families’ efforts toward enabling their children to reach school ready to learn.”

– SECTION 59-152-10 South Carolina Enabling Legislation (Approved the 28th day of June, 1999)

### **SECTION 59-152-20. Purpose.**

The purpose of the First Steps initiative is to develop, promote, and assist efforts of agencies, private providers, and public and private organizations and entities, at the state level and the community level, to collaborate and cooperate in order to focus and intensify services, assure the most efficient use of all available resources, and eliminate duplication of efforts to serve the needs of young children and their families.

### **SECTION 59-152-30. Goals.**

The goals for South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness are to:

- (1) provide parents with access to the support they might seek and want to strengthen their families and to promote the optimal development of their preschool children;
- (2) increase comprehensive services so children have reduced risk for major physical, developmental, and learning problems;
- (3) promote high quality preschool programs that provide a healthy environment that will promote normal growth and development;
- (4) provide services so all children receive the protection, nutrition, and health care needed to thrive in the early years of life so they arrive at school ready to learn; and
- (5) mobilize communities to focus efforts on providing enhanced services to support families and their young children so as to enable every child to reach school healthy and ready to learn.

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# KEEPING THE PROMISE

December 31, 2004



Dear Friends,

The fifth anniversary of First Steps South Carolina comes with a strong commitment from many in the early education community, from those who first imagined a group dedicated to school readiness, to those who, after learning about the program, felt a need to join the effort.

In fact, since the passage of the legislation in June 1999, First Steps has become recognized around South Carolina as a program with the best interests of our youngest students at heart, dedicated to improving their school readiness.

The enormous efforts of all of you previously involved in First Steps can be seen in the following pages of this – the South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness Five Year Anniversary Report, 1999-2004. For those of you who have been working toward this end, we thank you.

And for those of you new to the First Steps effort, we thank you in advance for your work toward fulfilling the program's promise to South Carolina's children by providing services that focus on quality, effective use of resources, program improvements and accountability.

As we continue to shape the future of school readiness in our state, we look forward to helping our children live up to their fullest potential. Thank you for your interest in helping the children of South Carolina. Take care.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read "Mark Sanford".

Mark Sanford  
Governor  
State of South Carolina

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2004

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The Honorable Inez Tenenbaum, *Superintendent of Education*  
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*Office of Research and Statistics*



# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

South Carolina's First Steps to School Readiness initiative has made a significant impact in the life of South Carolina's families. Through the hard work and dedication of thousands of volunteers, First Steps has begun to fulfill its promise to our state: the improved school readiness of SC's youngest children. Since ratification of the law in 1999 and full statewide program implementation in 2002, 46 First Steps county partnerships have helped 282,890 children get ready for school.

The National Education Goals Panel defines school readiness in five dimensions.<sup>1</sup> Because all of these areas influence student achievement, school readiness strategies must take them all into account:

- ▶ **Health and physical development.** Children who are born with the benefit of prenatal care, and who have good nutrition, health monitoring, and early intervention, perform better in school.
- ▶ **Emotional well-being and social competence.** Children who have secure relationships with family members and peers can become self-confident learners.
- ▶ **Approaches toward learning.** Children's attitudes toward learning, their ways of approaching new tasks, and their skills all affect school readiness.
- ▶ **Communicative skills.** Children with rich language experiences have the tools to interact with other people and to represent their thoughts, feelings, and experiences effectively.
- ▶ **Cognition and general knowledge.** Children who have the opportunity to explore and learn from their surroundings can construct knowledge of patterns and relationships and discover ways to solve problems.

Thus far, South Carolina First Steps partnerships have reached 282,890 children ages 0-5 in South Carolina with an average annual investment of less than one-third of one percent of the state's annual budget. The Federal Reserve Bank documents a potential public return on investment to be \$12.90 for every one dollar spent on high quality early learning experiences.<sup>2</sup> Quality early education has also been shown to result in long term individual results, such as higher

educational attainment and higher per capita income, while reducing crime and dependence on welfare in our nation's communities.<sup>3</sup>

## PROGRAMS

Since full implementation in 2002, First Steps has impacted South Carolina's children through four core school readiness strategy areas (and other, complementary services to afford greater educational access to families):

**Early Education:** 21,677 children

(ex: expanded four-year-old Kindergarten, public and private)

**Family Strengthening:** 23,631 families and 77,923 children

(ex: Parents as Teachers, family literacy)

**Childcare Quality:** 2,430 facilities and 148,458 children

(ex: increased training/mentoring, scholarships, facility enhancement)

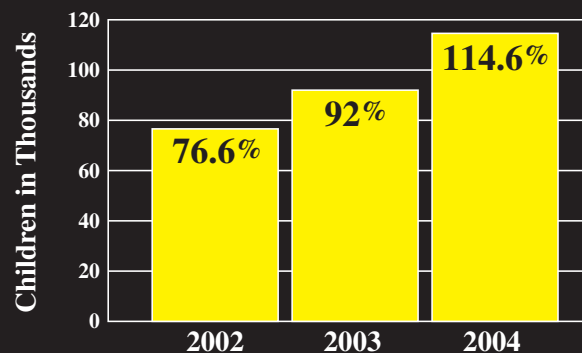
**Healthy Start:** 5,970 families and 15,705 children

(ex: early vision/dental screenings)

**Other:** 10,238 adults/families and 19,127 children

(ex: transportation)

NUMBER OF CHILDREN SERVED IN  
FIRST STEPS PROGRAMS 2002-2004



## Fifth Anniversary Report 1999-2004 | Five Years of Results

### PARTNERSHIPS

Targeted at South Carolina's children under the age of six, First Steps is an initiative designed to achieve results through partnerships: at state and local levels, among public and private entities. County-level partnerships – with their unique ability to identify local needs, resources, and collaborative opportunities – are designed to efficiently focus program efforts and reach children where they live. First Steps' state level partnerships enable policy and system improvements, maximize and leverage early education resources among statewide public and private entities, and achieve synergies for children and families through multi-agency coordination.

### FINANCES

First Steps began serving children and communities with 100 percent state allocated monies, and a required 15 percent local county match. Today, the initiative uses a combination of state funds, federal funds, private funds and in-kind donations, leveraging greater resources for expanded reach to children while reducing dependence on state funds alone. Over the past three years, First Steps has significantly increased federal funds for its early childhood programs from \$44,000 in 2002 to \$2.3 million in 2004.

Furthermore, First Steps' statewide school readiness infrastructure has leveraged more than \$25 million in federal funds for South Carolina for other child-serving agencies, such as the SC Department of Social Services and the SC Department of Health and Human Services. Through its partnerships, First Steps also has realized nearly \$3 million dollars in volunteer time over the past three years.

All partnerships must apply and leverage resources toward best-practice strategies which meet local school readiness needs. From 2002-2004, 30 percent of First Steps' partnership expenditures funded early education initiatives, 28 percent funded family strengthening and family literacy strategies, 18 percent focused on increased childcare quality and five percent of all funds were spent on increasing results through early health programs.

### FUTURE

As First Steps continues its work to increase school readiness outcomes for SC's children, the initiative will focus on new school readiness priorities:

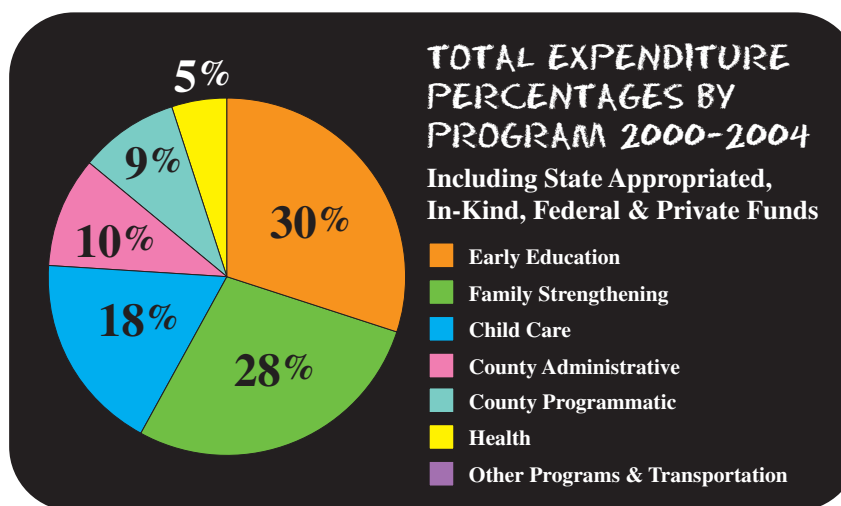
**Quality** – Ensuring limited resources for SC's children are dedicated to services whose impact on readiness is well-documented in research.

**Accountability** – Strengthening the focus on child outcomes, data, and research.

**Collaboration** – Building more rigorous collaborations among ALL school readiness partners to *leverage existing resources* and strengthen systemic improvements, which benefit all SC children.

**Leadership** – Ensuring decisions are made with key stakeholders in a timely, data-driven manner to assure quality services to children and greater access to families.

**Children are our future. Teach them well.**



# FIVE YEAR MILESTONES

## 1999

- Legislation ratified commissioning First Steps.
- Established 46 county partnership boards and facilitated 46 county forums attended by more than 5,000 people.
- Raised more than \$5 million from the private sector to support First Steps and made presentations to more than 300 organizations.
- Developed and distributed first newsletter, Footnotes, to more than 2,000 individuals and organizations.

## 2000

- Received fiscal year 1999-2000 state appropriation of \$20 million.
- Approved all 46 First Steps county partnerships to receive level one funding to determine needs, resources and gaps specific to their community.
- Held initial First Steps statewide board development conference for more than 800 county partnership board members and interested parties.
- Conducted state-level early education program development summit for partnership board members, staff and partners.
- Developed a fiscal accountability system to assist managing cash flow, closely monitor county partnership spending and ensure that spending remained in compliance with First Steps legislation and produce required reports.



## 2001

- Received fiscal year 2000-2001 state appropriation of \$30 million (included a non-recurring appropriation of \$10 million).
- Began programs in seven counties, such as expanded four-year old kindergarten (4-K).
- Enrolled 1,400 childcare providers in six months in the T.E.A.C.H. Early Childhood Project.
- All First Steps county partnership boards were approved to receive level two funding and begin implementation of program based on research and extensive planning efforts.
- Held statewide First Steps Leadership Training on best practices in early education and emerging brain research for more than 800 participants.
- Distributed more than 135,000 copies of the award-winning parent education video Making All the Difference.

## 2002

- Received fiscal year 2001-2002 state appropriation of \$23.04 million.
- Recognized by Education Week for First Steps effort to improve early childhood education in South Carolina in its January 10, 2002 special report on early education.
- Presented first Family Friendly Workplace Awards to five organizations in five different categories.
- County partnerships, required by the enabling legislation to provide at least a 15 percent match of their state allocation, obtained more than \$8.5 million in matching funds through private donations, federal grants and in-kind support which represented 34 percent of total funding.



## Fifth Anniversary Report 1999-2004 | Five Years of Results

### 2003

- Received fiscal year 2002-2003 appropriation of \$27.9 million (included a non-recurring appropriation of \$7 million).
- Child Trends, a nationally recognized, nonpartisan child research leader, completed a study of First Steps citing South Carolina as being among the nation's leaders by initiating a research-based, systemic model for increasing school readiness. They further concluded that the First Steps program is "ambitious and innovative" and has "engendered a culture of accountability."
- Convened the Blue Print Panel for South Carolina Children of state early education leaders to conduct process improvement analysis and crafted recommendations for the future of First Steps.



### 2004

- Received fiscal year state appropriation of \$18.54 million.
- Accepted a state lottery fund "match" challenge from the legislature for \$3 million. First Steps expects to yield up to \$9.1 million in additional funds by leveraging the lottery funds.
- Began implementation of the Blue Print Panel's recommendations.
- Organized and implemented Countdown to Kindergarten pilot program for SC's rising Kindergarten students, reaching more than 600 at-risk children with intensive family school readiness visits.
- Reported a positive financial position and noted no material findings for all 46 county partnerships and the state office in 100% of the financial audits.
- Reached 282,890 children directly and indirectly in three years of program implementation.<sup>4</sup>
- Realized more than \$3 million in donated volunteer time between 2000-2003.
- Leveraged more than \$25 million in federal funds for South Carolina for other agencies serving children, such as the Department of Social Services and the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services between 2003-2004.



# THE BLUEPRINT FOR SOUTH CAROLINA'S CHILDREN

In October 2003, First Steps began an internal review of strengths and weaknesses, four years after the legislation was passed, and 28 months into statewide program development.

Following a statewide survey of stakeholders and the general public, data examination at the state level, leadership review by state legislators and agency leaders, the panel produced answers to its 2 agency improvement research questions:

- ▶ **What has South Carolina's investment in First Steps yielded to date?**
- ▶ **What is the unique contribution or "value-add" of First Steps to the state of South Carolina?**

As the only state-level agency whose **sole focus is school readiness**, the Panel also noted the following findings for action:

## STRENGTHS:

1. Strong, *statewide school readiness infrastructure* utilizing 46 county partnerships for maximum impact,
2. Efficient use of *public and private* resources, and
3. Research and *accountability* focus.

## AREAS OF IMPROVEMENT:

1. Lack of *consistent, statewide priorities*, leading to a diffuse message of First Steps' value to SC,
2. Undue emphasis on *process and administration*, fueling the perception of excessive bureaucracy, and
3. Significant *operational "silos"* within school readiness community, limiting collaboration and the most effective use of resources for SC's children.

## BLUE PRINT PANEL MEMBERS

Ms. Rita Allison, *Governor's Office of Education*

Ms. Carolyn Brooks, *Spartanburg County First Steps*

Mr. Bruce Brumfield, *Business and Lancaster County*

*First Steps Partnership Board*

Mr. Lee Cory, *Business, Greenville, SC First Steps Board*

Ms. Susan DeVenny, *SC First Steps*

Mr. Jason Gilbert, *SC First Steps*

Dr. Baron Holmes, *SC Budget & Control Board, SC KidsCount*

Ms. Kristin Hook, *Parent, Lexington, SC First Steps Board*

Ms. Kimberly Jordan, *Kershaw County First Steps*

Mr. Leon Love, *SC First Steps*

Ms. Karen Martini, *Chesterfield County First Steps*

Ms. Mary Payson, *SC Office of Research & Statistics*

Mr. David Potter, *SC Education Oversight Committee*

Ms. Dorothy Priester, *SC First Steps*

Mr. Spencer Scott, *Florence County First Steps*

Mr. Lewis Smoak, *Business, Greenville, SC First Steps Board*

Mr. Bob Staton, *United Way of SC/Success by 6*

Ms. Lisa Van Riper, *Parent, Greenville, SC First Steps Board*

Mr. Dan Wuori, *Early Childhood Educator  
and Columbia, SC First Steps Board*

### SCHOOL READINESS PRIORITIES AND BLUEPRINT OBJECTIVES (2004-2006)

As a result of the findings, the Panel recommended SC's new school readiness priorities (**Quality, Accountability, Collaboration, Leadership**) and the following initial agency improvement objectives, both approved by the SC Board of Trustees in January 2004, along with:

1. Realign the **administrative structure** of First Steps' statewide organization to:
  - reflect state readiness priorities,
  - ensure efficient use of expertise among all school readiness partners,
  - eliminate unnecessary administrative expense, and
  - provide leadership in serving SC's children under 6.
2. Evaluate all early childhood education programs with research-based **accountability**; eliminate or redirect those programs yielding minimal results,
3. Identify and develop collaboration agreements with other public or private entities who can **add or strengthen school readiness services** within their scope,
4. Develop and implement the state's **long-term strategy** and action plan for increasing school readiness, and
5. Ensure all school readiness initiatives effectively and efficiently utilize **public and private resources** to increase and improve the readiness of SC's children.



# INTRODUCTION

After the alarming realization that one in seven children in South Carolina are not ready for first grade, lawmakers responded by creating South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness.<sup>5</sup> First Steps is a comprehensive, results-driven statewide education initiative to help prepare our children to reach first grade healthy and ready to succeed. As this five-year anniversary report illustrates, First Steps has touched the lives of 282,890 children throughout South Carolina in all 46 counties.

According to the National Goals Panel, the term *school readiness* is the degree to which a child is prepared to participate successfully in school.<sup>6</sup> A strong foundation for learning incorporates cognitive, social and emotional development, language and literacy skills and health and physical well being; or in other words, elements of the whole child.

Promoting school readiness and closing the achievement gap require states to:<sup>7</sup>

- **Begin early.** By the age of 3, babies have developed 90 percent of their adult brain mass.<sup>8</sup> Brain research in the past decade irrefutably concludes that stimulation of the brain during these months results in the formation of vital neural connections that are the source of all later learning. This underscores the crucial nature of physical, emotional and cognitive care during this short period of time. Once this window of opportunity closes, much more effort and energy are required to help under-developed brains catch up. Ready children make for successful and productive adults.
- Prioritize the use of limited resources by **targeting children at-risk for not being ready** for school first. At-risk children are frequently those from under-educated, low-income families, low birth weight babies or physically, mentally or developmentally delayed children. First Steps is able to target financial resources in the communities where they are needed most by using a funding formula (see page XXX) based on the various at-risk factors listed in its enabling legislation.



- Build a **comprehensive approach** that focuses on the whole child by targeted interventions to the childcare, family, early education and health of the child.
- **Engage highly-qualified professionals** in determining policies, designing, implementing and providing programs and services and measuring results.
- **Ensure accountability** from state and local administrators for supplying leadership and guidance – to program providers for front-line program implementation and delivery of effective services (in schools, childcare and preschool programs, home visiting programs, etc.) and to state policymakers for policy and investment decisions.



Utilizing 46 county partnerships, First Steps engages educators, families, community members, faith-based leaders and childcare providers in the important work of preparing children, birth to age five, for school. Setting the groundwork for a child's success in school, SC First Steps focuses on four key result-oriented components of the whole child. Those components are:

### EARLY EDUCATION

Quality early education improves school readiness, reduces grade retention and reliance on remediation in later grades. A child's enthusiasm and curiosity, communication and early literacy skills, ability to adjust to the classroom environment and cooperate with his/her teachers and peers are a vital part of a child's school readiness.

### FAMILY STRENGTHENING

The family has the most significant role in a young child's life. As the child's first and most influential teachers, parents provide the first layer of caring and nurturing for their children. Young children are highly influenced by their relationships with adults, by their home environment, and by their opportunities for playing, learning and growing. First Steps knows family and community contexts significantly contribute to children's school readiness.

### CHILDCARE QUALITY

A child's cognitive, physical and emotional development is directly related to the quality of care they receive. Enriching early experiences in high-quality care settings help reduce the achievement gap and produce fewer behavioral problems and better linguistic and cognitive outcomes among at-risk children.<sup>9</sup>

### HEALTHY START

Physical and mental health is a critical factor to a child's successful transition to school. Despite increased attention to children's development, many young children fail to receive the early health they need to be ready for school. Healthy children learn better than children who experience poor health and nutrition. Without proper nutrition, children face deficits in their vitamin and mineral intake, deficits in cognitive development, behavioral and emotional problems, problems relating with peers, physical health complications and experiences with symptoms of depression.<sup>10</sup>





## PROMISE OF EARLY EDUCATION

21-41 PERCENT

of South Carolina's children do not consistently demonstrate the skills they need for first grade.<sup>11</sup>

&

MORE THAN 4,000 4-YEAR-OLDS

are currently on the waiting list for kindergarten programs across the state.<sup>12</sup>

&

Of children in South Carolina under 6,

23.5 PERCENT LIVE IN POVERTY.<sup>13</sup>

&

34.8 PERCENT

of young adults drop out of high school.<sup>14</sup>

## Fifth Anniversary Report 1999-2004 | Five Years of Results



### COUNTDOWN TO KINDERGARTEN

During the summer of 2004, two Newberry County schools participated in the Countdown to Kindergarten Pilot program. Along with SC First Steps, the State Department of Education and EdVenture Children's Museum sponsored the participation of 20 families with 4-K students from Whitmire Community School and Pomaria Garmany Elementary Schools.

Countdown to Kindergarten's Home Visitation Program is intended to ease the transition to kindergarten for children and their families. The goals of the intensive four-week program were to:

- ▶ **assist at-risk children as they transition into kindergarten,**
- ▶ **increase the percentage of children who enter kindergarten with the skills and support they need to experience success in the classroom,**
- ▶ **increase the involvement of families in their children's education beginning in kindergarten, and**
- ▶ **increase the family's awareness of existing community resources that augment the school experience.**

The participating families received two home visits each week during the month of July. On the first visit, each rising kindergartener received a "Transition Toolkit" containing materials children would use in kindergarten. On each subsequent visit, experienced kindergarten teachers worked with children and their parents, practicing kindergarten

skills and using materials found in the "Toolkit." The program was available for children entering both public and private five-year old kindergarten programs.

On August 6, 2004, "Countdown to Kindergarten's Learning Celebration" for participating families was held at EdVenture Children's Museum in Columbia, SC. In addition to practicing getting on and off the school bus, holding cafeteria trays, being screened by local dentists, children and families met school leaders and received nutritional information. The learning event was complete by an evening of exploration and play at EdVenture.

– Submitted by Pat Caldwell, *Executive Director, Newberry County*



EdVenture children's museum

*In addition to Newberry County, 30 additional counties and more than 600 children participated in the Countdown to Kindergarten pilot program.*

*The results from the Home Visit Surveys pre- and post-assessment evaluation report that participation in Countdown to Kindergarten resulted in a 95 percent improvement in families reading to their children, a 78 percent increase in families telling their children stories, and a 93 percent increase in families teaching their children letters, words and numbers. In addition, the Home Visit Records tell us that the parent level of increase (i.e., interacting, playing or reading) with the child during the visit) during home visits improved by 71 percent.*



# PROMISE OF EARLY EDUCATION

## EARLY EDUCATION GOALS AND STRATEGIES

As demonstrated by a commitment to significant funding for early education since inception, First Steps recognizes the importance of early education to school readiness and decreased grade retention.

## FIRST STEPS' PROMISE IN EARLY EDUCATION IS TO:

1. Increase first grade readiness and pre-literacy skills of children through quality early education intervention,
2. Increase ongoing documentation to provide reporting and evaluation 4-K results including:
  - Short Term – 4-K classroom environmental ratings and readiness improvement plans at school sites, and
  - Long Term – Readiness impact studies to include student retention trends in grades 1-3, special education referral rates in primary grades and reading skill at grade 3,
3. Increase the number of at-risk children served in quality 4-K environments, public and private,
4. Increase the qualifications and professional development of personnel teaching in public and private 4-K programs,
5. Reduce the number of at-risk 4 year old children on waiting lists for the public school Child Development program,
6. Increase the evaluation and impact analysis of federal early education spending (Head Start, Early Head Start, Even Start, Title One monies) in quality early education strategies at district levels,
7. Increase parent involvement in their child's education, school and 4-K class, and
8. Increase the documentation reporting the state's school readiness progress.

Early Education Strategies use research, public-private partnerships, school readiness agency integration, and collaboration to increase the number of at-risk children being served in quality 4-K and 5-K experiences.

## ADOPTED FIRST STEPS STRATEGIES 2002-2004 FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

**Four-year-old Kindergarten (4-K)** – Add half-day and full-day public and private 4-K classes and expand existing 4-K child development half-day programs to full-day programs.

**Summer Readiness Initiatives** – Assist pre-first grade children in making a successful transition to first grade and school life and connects at-risk families to their child's school and learning life. Work to help students succeed by providing educational opportunities, encouragement, and support services.

**Family Initiatives** – Create public-private partnerships in targeted areas and offers school readiness service integration by building educational involvement skills parents will use while their child is in 4-K - 12, expanding 4-K choice.



## Fifth Anniversary Report 1999-2004 | Five Years of Results

### FIVE YEARS OF FIRST STEPS RESULTS IN EARLY EDUCATION

- 1. Increased numbers of at-risk children being served in quality 4-K classes, public and private from 2002 to 2004.**
  - 11,126 children were served in full-day public and private 4-K.
  - 1,333 children were served in half-day 4-K in public school.
  - 4,126 children were served in extending half-day 4-K classes to full-day.
  - 475 children were served in Head Start programs.
  - 1,372 children under 4 years of age were served in early education programs.
  - 11,171 children were served in summer and evening programs.
- 2. Increased number of teachers in 4-K and 5-K programs whose initial certification is Early Childhood.**
  - 99.1 percent of First Steps-funded 4-K teachers were certified in Early Childhood Education in 2003.
  - 632 scholarships awarded since 2001 in the T.E.A.C.H. Program to 4-K and 5-K teachers.
- 3. Increase number of parents actively participating in child's school and education as reported by the school at 4-K and 5-K (i.e., parent-teacher conferences, school governance, etc.)**
  - 2,194 children received First Steps-funded home visits in preparation for attending 5-K from 2002-2004.

#### FAST FACT:

In 2003, the National Institute for Early Education Research (NIEER) ranked South Carolina fourth in the US for access to 4-K programs, but only 33rd in resource availability.

- 4. Increased leverage of federal monies for at-risk student populations for early education spending.**

- \$1,418,567 federal dollars have been applied to early education programs since 2003 through leveraging allocated state funds.

- 5. Increase in number of public and private 4-K classrooms with Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS) self-study completion and improvement plans in place.**

- 92 classrooms for 4-K programs have had a formal review since March 2004 by the state ECERS team that is comprised of First Steps, SC Department of Education, SC Department of Social Services and Head Start.
- 100% of private 4-K pilot sites have been reviewed by the state ECERS team.
- More than 38 First Steps staff members received formal ECERS and/or ITERS training in order to assist the ECERS review team efforts statewide.

**Total Children Affected  
by Programs in Early  
Education: 21,677**

#### FAST FACT:

In 2004,  
all 85 school districts  
supplemented funds to cover  
program costs for necessary  
4-K programs.



## PROMISE OF FAMILY STRENGTHENING

56 PERCENT

of South Carolina's children in 5 year-old kindergarten are on a free or reduced lunch.<sup>15</sup>

&

23 PERCENT

of South Carolina adults have less than a high school diploma.<sup>16</sup>

&

21 PERCENT

of births are to mothers who have not completed high school.<sup>17</sup>

&

29 PERCENT

of children under age 6 live in single parent families.<sup>18</sup>



## Fifth Anniversary Report 1999-2004 | Five Years of Results

### BOOKS MAKING FAMILY LITERACY A REALITY IN JASPER COUNTY

*In 1996, Dolly Parton and the Dollywood Foundation launched the Imagination Library children's book program. Starting in her hometown of Sevierville, Tennessee, the Imagination Library is now in 196 communities in 32 states and still growing. Through the program, children who are registered receive a new, hardcover, age-appropriate book each month until the age of five. Under the program, a local agency teams up with the Imagination Library to sponsor children in the town or county. A local agency/school or business sponsors the books and mailings for the children in the community. After a child is registered, the Foundation orders and ships books from Penguin Publishing to each child.*

In recognizing the importance of the Jasper County First Steps program to the community, the Jasper County Council wants to help the program do more. Working with First Steps Executive Director Cathy Gardner, the County Council donated \$25,000 to help the children of Jasper County get ready for school and already donated \$25,000 for fiscal year 2005.

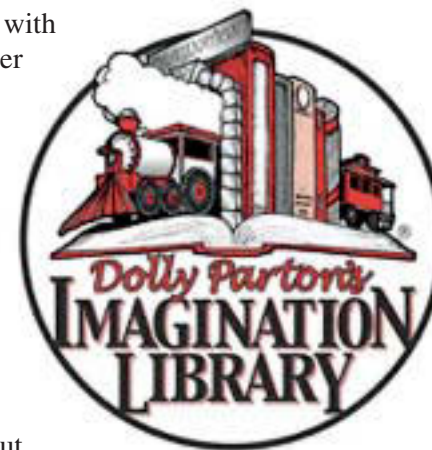
In 2004, a portion of the donation allowed Jasper County First Steps to start Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. To date, this program

has served over 200 children; and with some of the additional funds, Jasper County First Steps will be able to expand the program to include every child under the age of 5 in the county.

Not only will this additional money allow Jasper County First Steps to continue working with the nine childcare centers in the Facility Quality Enhancement Program and start working with an additional five, but the money will also fund more childcare training to our childcare providers as well as the First Steps staff.

This partnership gives Jasper County First Steps the ability to reach every child under the age of 5 in the county and improve childcare across the county.

– Submitted by Cathy Gardner, Executive Director, Jasper County First Steps



# PROMISE OF FAMILY STRENGTHENING

## GOALS AND STRATEGIES FOR FAMILY STRENGTHENING

A parent's educational attainment is strongly correlated to their child's school success, which is why assisting parents further their own education directly impacts the children of South Carolina. Family strengthening programs include the following four components: 1) parent education; 2) parent literacy training (including adult education); 3) age-appropriate education for children; and 4) interactive literacy activities (between parents and their children). The 1995 Hart and Risley study indicates that children from predominately low socio-economic and/or low educated families experience a 30 million word exposure gap when compared to middle/upper income and well-educated families. This language deficit, present before children arrive at school, makes it difficult for at-risk children to build reading skills and to develop vocabularies at the same rate of achievement as their language-enriched peers.

## FIRST STEPS' PROMISE TO FAMILIES IS TO:

1. Increase family literacy and parent education levels,
2. Improve parental employability and employment,
3. Increase effectiveness of parenting with regards to child nurturance, learning and interaction, language, health and safety,
4. Increase in successful parenting/family literacy program targeting, service integration, results documentation, and
5. Increase parent involvement in 4-K – 12 education settings.

Given the impact of family literacy activities in children's school readiness, First Steps developed programs that support family enhancement of the literacy of their children and adult family

members. Furthermore, working with and assisting other providers is key to service integration, expanded delivery and accountability in targeted populations, collaboration for effective use of resources, improvement of results documentation, and analysis.

## ADOPTED FIRST STEPS STRATEGIES 2002-2004 FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

**Parent Education** – Increases parents' ability to stimulate their child's intellectual, social and physical development with model parent programs such as Parents as Teachers (PAT) and Parent-Child Home-Program (PCH-P). Studies show that parents participating in PAT and PCH programs increase their verbal interaction with their child, resulting in an increase of the child's scores in reading, math, social and cognitive skills. Moreover, these children score higher on kindergarten readiness tests and on standardized measures in first through fourth grades.

**Literacy** – Promotes the importance of reading through programs such as the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, English as a Second Language, Mother Read/Father Read or library-based programs. In addition, early literacy programs, such as Reach Out and Read, targets children through pediatricians' offices where doctors prescribe parents read to their young children and instead of a lollipop, children age birth to 6 are given a book to keep as they leave each well-child visit. According to national research, books in the home affect school readiness by increasing exposure to language.

**COUNTDOWN to Kindergarten** – Piloted to impact directly the early parent involvement of rising 5K parents whose children are screened at-risk.

## FIVE YEARS OF FIRST STEPS RESULTS IN FAMILY STRENGTHENING

### 1. Enhanced school readiness of children (particularly as related to: cognition/thinking skills, language, emergent numeracy and literacy, health and motor skills, emotional well-being, social and interaction skills, character and behavior).

- 4,563 children screened for health and developmental problems. 541 children were identified with a possible problem and of those identified, 85 percent of them received follow up services.
- 14,195 children served in family literacy/learning programs.
- Nearly 70,000 books given to children.
- 43,015 children served in library-based literacy programs.
  1. 1,575 hours were spent reading to children in 2004.
  2. 454 library cards provided to families in 2004.
- 243 adults and 260 children served in English as a Second Language Programs.
- 662 children served in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library Program in 2004.

### 2. Targeted analysis of parenting programming expenditure and results, federal and state resources.

- 19,349 adults served in parent strengthening programs.
- 5,128 parents were served in family literacy and adult education programs.
- 2,596 at-risk children in First Steps-supported Parents As Teachers (PAT) programs were linked to the support services they needed such as Food Stamps, WIC and housing assistance from 2002-2004.
- Nearly 100 parents earn a high school diploma or a GED from First Steps supported programs every year on average.
- First Steps successfully directed services in 2004 to families with the greatest needs as 65 percent of families served were enrolled in Medicaid and only 25 percent of mothers served had a high school diploma.

### 3. Change in parent knowledge/public awareness of early learning importance.

- 141,068 home visits served 13,235 families from 2002-2004.
- 68 percent of children served through parent strengthening programs were between the ages of 0-3 from 2002-2004.

### 4. Leveraged federal resources to assist targeted groups of parents for family literacy/school readiness of their children.

- \$289,108 federal dollars have been applied to family strengthening programs since 2003 through leveraging allocated state funds.

#### FAST FACT:

According to the 2003 SC Department of Education's school report cards, the median percentage of parent participation in South Carolina's elementary schools is 99% whereas the median percentage for parent participation for high school is 96.1%.

**Total Children  
Affected by  
Family Strengthening  
Programs: 77,923**



## PROMISE OF CHILDCARE QUALITY

66.1 PERCENT

of mothers with children under 6 are in the labor force.<sup>19</sup>

&

62.6 PERCENT

of children under 6 are in families where the single parent or both parents work outside of the home.<sup>20</sup>

&

30 PERCENT

of children under 6 live in single-parent families.<sup>21</sup>

&

57.7 PERCENT

of centers with pre-school staff and 51.4 percent of centers with assistants pay only \$6 to \$8 per hour.<sup>22</sup>



## Fifth Anniversary Report 1999-2004 | Five Years of Results

### COMMITTED PARTNERSHIPS YIELD POSITIVE ENVIRONMENT FOR THE CHILDREN OF SUMTER COUNTY

Since 2001, Sumter County First Steps improved the quality of local childcare programs through a partnership with United Way Success By 6. The Childcare Quality Enhancement Initiative offers quality enhancement grants and training/technical assistance to registered and licensed childcare programs to enable advancements in program



credentials and staff training, improvements in health and safety for children, and improvements in learning environments. In the last 3 years, seventy-one childcare programs have demonstrated progress in program

quality and staff training with an additional 10 providers currently receiving quality enhancement assistance for 2004-2005.

While many programs have made excellent progress, one program deserves special recognition for its achievements. Ms. Sharolyn White began her home childcare in Sumter in 1989 as a family home registered to care for six children. By the time she received her initial First Steps Childcare Quality Enhancement (CCQE) grant in 2001, she was a licensed group home provider caring for 12 children in her home. Parents of children attending Precious Childcare were so impressed with Ms. White's care that she was nominated for and awarded the prestigious United Way Success By 6 Early Childhood Professional Award in 2001. With much hard work, a CCQE grant and

training and technical assistance, she was able to open a Childcare Development Center near Kingsbury Elementary School in Sumter in March of 2002. Precious Childcare Development Center received another First Steps CCQE grant in 2003-2004 and made excellent progress on the Early Childhood Environment Rating Scale post assessment site visit. On June 1, 2004 the Council for Professional Recognition awarded Ms. White a Child Development Associate (CDA) Credential.

Recently awarded an additional Childcare Quality Enhancement grant, Precious Child Development Center is now an ABC Enhanced Center licensed to care for 70 children. Ms. White is currently working



toward an Associate Degree in Early Care and Education at Central Carolina Technical College, and she and her staff of five are currently working towards becoming a nationally accredited childcare program through the National Association of the Education of Young Children (NAEYC). Upon completion of this milestone, Precious Childcare Development Center will be the first privately owned childcare center in Sumter County to become NAEYC accredited.

– Submitted by Debra Padgett, *Executive Director, Sumter County First Steps*





# PROMISE OF CHILDCARE QUALITY

## GOALS AND STRATEGIES FOR CHILDCARE QUALITY

Research shows quality childcare positively affects a child's educational development and later school success. Research shows children attending childcare centers that meet professional standards for quality score higher on school readiness and language tests.

### FIRST STEPS' PROMISE TO CHILD CARE PROVIDERS AND CONSUMERS:

1. Increased availability of quality childcare choice for parents, as measured by increasing numbers of childcare providers operating at higher levels of quality,
2. Increase number of childcare vouchers available to SC families for quality childcare,
3. Increase school readiness focus in childcare settings,
4. Increased leverage of federal and private resources to serve the state's most at-risk children,
5. Increased number of childcare workers achieving progress toward early education certification and continued professional development,
6. Improve quality of physical and learning environment, and
7. Expanded public and private partnerships in 4-K education.

Childcare strategies fall into three primary areas: childcare quality enhancement, childcare worker professional development, and expanded access to quality childcare. The strategies are designed to assist childcare providers in meeting regulatory standards of care, meeting parent expectations for quality, and achieving desired quality improvements through the ABC voucher system or national accreditation. Childcare strategies assist parents and businesses by increasing access and availability of quality childcare.

## ADOPTED FIRST STEPS STRATEGIES 2002-2004 FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

**Quality Enhancement** – Help childcare providers improve their quality by providing funds for upgrades to meet childcare licensing and health and safety requirements, educational curricula, equipment and supplies. Qualified staff offer technical assistance to assist providers with their goals for improvement.

**Staff Training and Development** – Provide ongoing staff development and mentoring, increasing the knowledge of childcare workers and improving the quality of programs offered in participating childcare facilities. The low wages attract childcare workers with limited education. In 46.7 percent of centers, most pre-school staff and in 51.4 percent of centers most assistants have only a high school diploma. In 47.5 percent of centers few to none of the pre-school staff have early childhood credentials. Within in-home childcare, 57 percent of lead providers have no more education than a high school diploma or GED; 15.7 percent have less than a high school diploma.<sup>23</sup>

**Childcare Vouchers** – Provides childcare subsidies to eligible families and their children and increases the number of childcare slots in South Carolina, which are in great demand. First Steps works to ensure parents have high-quality choices for childcare vouchers.

### The Teacher Education And Compensation Helps (T.E.A.C.H.)

**Early Childhood Project** – Provides scholarships for teachers working in childcare to complete college course work in early childhood education and enabling them to increase their compensation. Managed by First Steps through the Center for Childcare Career Development, T.E.A.C.H. Scholarships are available for the SC Early Childhood credential or an Associate's degree in Early Care and Education.



### FIVE YEARS OF FIRST STEPS RESULTS WITH CHILDCARE QUALITY

In an effort to improve the quality of childcare and support working families in South Carolina, First Steps implemented the following childcare initiatives:

**1. Increased availability of quality childcare choice for parents, as measured by increasing numbers of childcare providers operating at a higher rate of care by adding quality enhancement.**

- 60,137 children served through childcare quality enhancement programs.
- 1,808 childcare providers participated in quality enhancement programs.
- 68 childcare providers became licensed from 2002-2004 and 20 providers are currently working toward becoming licensed (meeting the minimum standard of care set by the State of South Carolina).
- 130 childcare providers became ABC-enhanced from 2001-2004 and 26 are currently working toward enhancement.
- 11 childcare providers became National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) accredited, which is the highest standard of care. There are only 82 accredited childcare facilities in South Carolina. (42 childcare facilities are currently working toward accreditation)

**2. Increase the school readiness knowledge and skill of childcare professionals through increased staff development and mentoring.**

- 32,896 children affected through high-quality childcare center staff training and development.
- 2,446 childcare providers received technical assistance and/or mentoring in 2002-2004.
- 3,226 workshops for childcare workers were held in First Steps partnerships across the state in 2002-2004.
- 4,055 hours training 651 early care and education staff and parents in literacy techniques in 2004.
- 4,146 literacy kits given or loaned to families and/or childcare providers in 2004.

**3. Increased leverage of federal monies for targeted at-risk student populations.**

- \$1,621,466 federal dollars have been applied to childcare programs since 2003 through leveraging allocated state funds.

**4. Increased access to quality childcare programs through ABC voucher system/scholarships.**

- 3,830 childcare scholarships were provided to families offering 100 percent parental choice in childcare.

**5. Increased the number of childcare providers having completed Early Childhood Development (ECD) 101 and received their SC Early Childhood Credential.**

- 926 childcare providers are currently active on the T.E.A.C.H. Scholarship Program.
- 3,057 South Carolina Early Childhood Credential Scholarships have been awarded from 2001-2004.
- 1,320 Associate Degree Scholarships have been awarded from 2001-2004.
- 2,130 ECD 101 Credentials earned by T.E.A.C.H. recipients only.
- 70 Associate Degrees have been completed.

**6. Increased the usage of a nationally-validated measuring tool for measuring quality childcare.**

- 92 classrooms for 4-K programs have had a formal review since March 2004 by the state ECERS team that is comprised of First Steps, SC Department of Education, SC Department of Social Services and Head Start.
- 100% of private 4-K pilot sites have been reviewed by the state ECERS team.

**7. Increased number of childcare provider environmental quality assessment (ECERS environmental rating scale) self-study and trend analysis.**

- More than 38 First Steps staff members received formal ECERS and/or ITES training in order to assist the ECERS review team efforts statewide.

**Total Children Affected by  
Quality Childcare Programs: 148,458**

## PROMISE OF A HEALTHY START

40,578

children under the age of 6 are uninsured in South Carolina.<sup>25</sup>



26.4 PERCENT

of pregnant women received less than adequate prenatal care.<sup>26</sup>



9.6 PERCENT

of South Carolina's babies were born with low birth weight.<sup>27</sup>



46TH

in the United States in infant mortality with 9.3 deaths per 1,000 live births.<sup>28</sup>



11.9 PERCENT

of South Carolina's children are not fully immunized.<sup>29</sup>

## Fifth Anniversary Report 1999-2004 | Five Years of Results

### CHILDREN IN GREENWOOD ARE GETTING THE HEALTHY START THEY NEED

Healthy Families Greenwood County is a voluntary, intensive home visitation program that provides services to high-risk new or expectant families. Based on nationally proven criteria, the Healthy Families program is a "Best Practice" recognized program model. Designed to strengthen families with young children who have the greatest need for high intensity, long-term home visitation, the program focuses on parents who are typically single, living in poverty and have less than a high school degree. To be in this program, families must also have a combination of risk factors in addition to these three characteristics such as mental illness, substance abuse, domestic violence or prior history of child abuse/neglect.



Each family has their own family service plan with goals they want to reach and steps to achieving their goals. Home visits are provided weekly (at least four per month per family) for a minimum of nine months. After nine months in the program, families must meet strict program criteria to determine the rate of visits. As families are successful in meeting goals, the number of visits per month may be gradually decreased. Visits are ongoing for up to four years, i.e., the prenatal stage until the child is three years of age.

Designed and implemented originally through a collaborative process with over twenty original partners, Healthy Families Greenwood County was able to serve 142 families and to leverage First Steps funds through a partnership with Prevent Child Abuse SC and the Department of Health and Human Services last year. For every dollar of funding provided by First Steps of Greenwood County, Healthy Families Greenwood County was able to access three dollars of federal funds. The United Way of Greenwood and Abbeville Counties and First Baptist Church also provided local support.

In 2003, First Steps served 140 children, 143 mothers (3 were prenatal), and 62 fathers. Through First Steps, Healthy Families provided crisis services that included getting an infant near death to emergency medical care, preventing domestic violence confrontations, avoiding evictions from housing and accessing critical mental health care. First Steps funding produced very

positive results for the children and families served through the intensive home visitation of Healthy Families Family Support Workers. The successful outcomes include the following:

In 2003, 140 children were served and:

- 100 percent of the children were free of child abuse and neglect. (The families chosen for this program are the ones with the highest risk of child maltreatment.)
- 100 percent of the children had medical homes and received preventive health care.
- 98 percent of the children met developmental guidelines on time in problem-solving, fine motor, gross motor, communication and personal/social skills. The 2 with serious delays were linked to BabyNet and one was referred to speech therapy. Meeting developmental guidelines on time is the best on-going measure we have for how well children are acquiring the skills they will need to be successful upon entering school.
- 100 percent of the families were 180 percent below the federal poverty guidelines.

When you remember that these children are the ones living in the most at-risk home environments, the outcomes are especially significant.

94 percent of the children had immunizations up to date

73 percent of the families accessed new community resources

71 percent of surveyed parents reported their support system has improved

91.9 percent of the home visits included education about child development

90.6 percent of the visits used a child development curriculum

86.8 percent of the visits modeled positive parent-child interaction

93.2 percent of the visits taught positive parenting skills

93 percent of surveyed parents reported their understanding of child development and parenting had been improved

58 parents resumed or completed their education or literacy training:

12 – literacy program

28 – High school

8 – GED program

10 – Higher education

Five children graduated from Healthy Families. All had positive assessment scores at graduation.

– Submitted by Michael Gaskins, *Executive Director, Greenwood County First Steps*

# PROMISE OF A HEALTHY START

## GOALS AND STRATEGIES FOR A HEALTHY START

In order to realize our goals and objectives, the two critical systems of greatest importance to children, those providing health services and education, need to collaborate. Good health is a critical partner to early education. Starting during the prenatal period and continuing through adolescence into adulthood, good health during a child's formative years helps children to reach their maximum potential.

## FIRST STEPS' PROMISE FOR A HEALTHY START IS TO:

1. **Improve the health, growth, and development of young children so they enter school physically and mentally prepared to succeed,**
2. **Integrate medical provider, school readiness and early literacy services, and**
3. **Leverage federal resources for targeted families with young children at greatest risk for school failure, expanding medical anticipatory guidance to parents with special needs and other at-risk children.**

Over the past three years, health programs at First Steps has identified and focused on programs to help families with young children access quality health services that will enhance early child growth and development. Using and integrating existing health care infrastructure where possible allows First Steps to maximize reach and impact on school readiness. In addition to reactive health care programs, medically based anticipatory guidance is offered to parents on the education of their young children to affect school readiness over time.

## ADOPTED FIRST STEPS STRATEGIES 2002-2004 FOCUS ON THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMS:

**Early Periodic Screenings & Confirmed Diagnostic Treatment** – Conduct screenings at childcare centers with a focus on the importance of immunization and early identification, prevention and treatment of physical problems that affect learning.

**Technical Assistance and Consultation for Childcare Providers** – Identify health and safety issues in childcare facilities. Childcare workers are taught how to prevent the spread of infection and food-borne illnesses and spot illnesses likely to spread among children in a childcare facility.

**Nutrition Education** – Provide low-income families and childcare providers with on-site and home-based nutritional counseling, reducing preventable developmental delays and deficiencies related to poor nutrition.

**Postpartum and Pediatric Home Health Visits** – Assess the overall physical health of infants and their mothers, evaluate the overall safety conditions of the home, provide information about growth and development and linking families to doctors to reduce the number of inappropriate emergency room visits thereby saving health care dollars. This program is offered in collaboration with SC Department of Health and Environmental Control.





### FIVE YEARS OF FIRST STEPS RESULTS FOR A HEALTHY START

**1. Referred uninsured and underinsured families with children 0-5 to medical homes through school readiness interventions and increased penetration of school readiness services to Medicaid-eligible families.**

- 3,419 children were served through public health promotion programs.
- 2,937 children served through nutrition programs.
- 3,713 children linked to a doctor/medical home from 2002-2004. 10,016 referrals were made to support services such as doctors, dentists, WIC and BabyNet for 8,094 families referred from 2002-2004.

**2. Increased immunization rates, adequate medical care, and early referral for learning disability/health issues which impact school performance among South Carolina families with children 0-5. From 2002-2004, First Steps supported:**

- 4,910 health assessments:
  1. 915 dental screenings
  2. 1,400 hearing screenings
  3. 688 vision screenings
  4. 9,179 developmental screenings
- 1,525 home environment assessments (2004 only).
- In 2004, 99 percent of children in the First Steps-supported Parents as Teachers programs were fully immunized by age 2, 18 percentage points higher than the state average of 81 percent.<sup>30</sup>

**3. Improved parent/caregiver knowledge regarding health and safety issues for young children, and potential educational success impact.**

- 4,322 children served through home-based health services.

**4. Increased number of uninsured mothers receiving pre- and post-natal care and reduced number of low birth weight babies.**

- 1,453 pre-natal and post-natal assessments/visits.
- 365 infant assessments/visits per year on average.

**5. Increased medical service delivery/integration at school and childcare sites where possible to meet parent needs and ensure health needs of young children are met.**

- 5,027 children served through non-home based health services.
- 1,273 childcare facilities or schools received a health visit from 2002-2003.

**6. Increased involvement of pediatric community in family literacy/school readiness referral and guidance.**

- 9,074 books handed out at doctors' offices from 2002-2004.



**Total Children  
Affected by  
Health Care  
Programs:  
15,705**



# PARTNERSHIPS OF PROMISE

Partnerships are a necessary element of First Steps construction – our partners help us keep our promise to the children of South Carolina. At both the state and county levels, the established partnerships are eliminating fragmentation in early childhood education. These partnerships involve hundreds of statewide and local organizations that are benefiting from First Steps coordination and resource leveraging and are accomplishing their goals for children.

First Steps is developing, promoting and assisting efforts of agencies, private service providers and public and private organizations at the state and community levels. By working together, these entities can focus and intensify critically needed services, assure efficiency of available resources and eliminate duplication of efforts.

Collaboration with parents, business and community leaders, teachers, local agencies, nonprofits and faith communities to work together to improve school readiness is vital to the success of First Steps. Private investors have shown tremendous leadership with their financial partnerships at state and local levels.

First Steps legislation requires each county partnership board to be made up of at least 32 local individuals from the following collaborative categories:

- Pre-kindergarten through primary educator,
- Family education, training, and support provider,
- Childcare and early childhood development/education provider,
- Healthcare provider,
- Transportation provider,
- Nonprofit organization that provides services to families and children,
- Faith community,
- Business community,
- Parents of pre-school children,
- Early Childhood Education Representatives,
- County Department of Social Services,
- County Department of Health and Environmental Control,
- Head Start,
- County Library, and
- Each of the school districts in the county.

Corporations and individuals across SC continue to show their support for the First Steps initiative. Pledged private contributions for statewide distribution to the county offices by the First Steps state office are as follows:

DONOR	PLEDGE
Bank of America	\$ 1,000,000
J. Marion Sims Foundation	\$ 1,000,000
Psaras Foundation	\$ 1,000,000
Duke Energy Foundation	\$ 550,000
Progress Energy Foundation	\$ 500,000
SCANA Corporation	\$ 500,000
Springs Industries	\$ 500,000
Wachovia	\$ 500,000
Individual Donations Under \$500,000	\$ 2,210,741
<b>Total Pledged from 1999-2004</b>	<b>\$ 7,760,741</b>

## FAST FACT:

When children begin first grade healthy and ready to learn, their future opportunities for success are much greater. Plus, communities are improved in the long-term through the creation of a stronger and more competitive workforce in all SC communities.

### ABBEVILLE COUNTY'S "PUT ME ON THE BUS" PROJECT

The community of Abbeville County recognized the need for a mobile learning unit in the area. Leading the charge, the Vice Chairman of the Abbeville County First Steps Board and member in charge of the Rotary's 100th Year Anniversary Project, Dr. Randy Rubble coordinated partnerships with Abbeville County First Steps, the Abbeville Rotary Club, the United Way and the Abbeville County School District to manage and fund a mobile learning bus modeled after a similar project in Anderson County.

Following the principles of the Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS), the Anderson mobile learning bus is a retired school bus that was renovated into a mobile, early learning classroom for preschool children. Inside the bus, there are preschool centers such as a book center, puppet center, science center, dramatic-play area and household center. In addition, the bus also has the technological ability for parents to view educational videos and play music for children. Decorated with bright numbers, letters and colors to catch the eyes of preschool children, the outside of the bus provides an awning of outside centers such as a sand and water table.

In order to kick off the campaign to raise funds for Abbeville's own bus, the partners hosted a "Put Me on the Bus" Campaign event one month into the 2004-2005 school year. Anderson County brought the model bus for everyone to view in downtown Abbeville. Children and parents from all over the county enjoyed the learning bus.

Bringing four partners together will provide exciting future opportunities for the children of Abbeville County. Once the funds are raised, First Steps of Abbeville County plans to use the bus with the Parents as Teachers program, Countdown to Kindergarten program and quality enhancement efforts in childcare facilities.

– Submitted by Angela Pruitt, *Executive Director, Abbeville County First Steps*



United Way



# 2004 STATE EARLY LITERACY PARTNERSHIPS

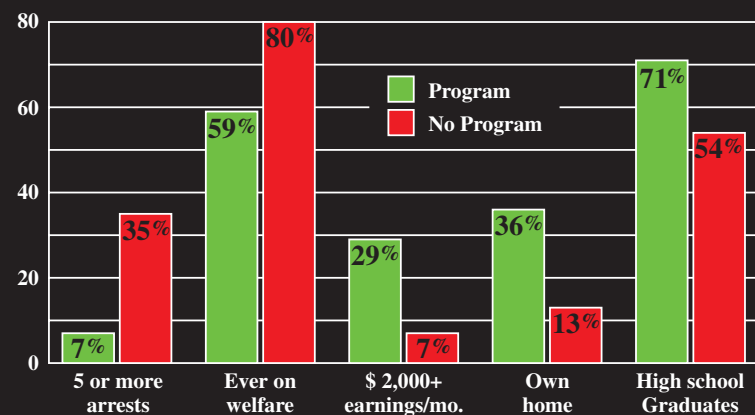
As the state's school readiness partners pull resources together in service to our youngest learners in SC, the First Steps' infrastructure continues to benefit from state level partners.

In early 2004, South Carolina United Way Association/Success by Six and South Carolina First Steps to School Readiness initiatives joined in full partnership, declaring their combined commitment to get kids ready. Dr. Craig Ramey joined the South Carolina community to describe results of the 40 year-old Perry Preschool study, validating the return on investment of quality early education experiences for at-risk children.

First Steps and United Way partnerships are working together across the state to set in motion strong community and regional plans which improve coordination and leverage school readiness and early education experiences for children and family at the local levels.

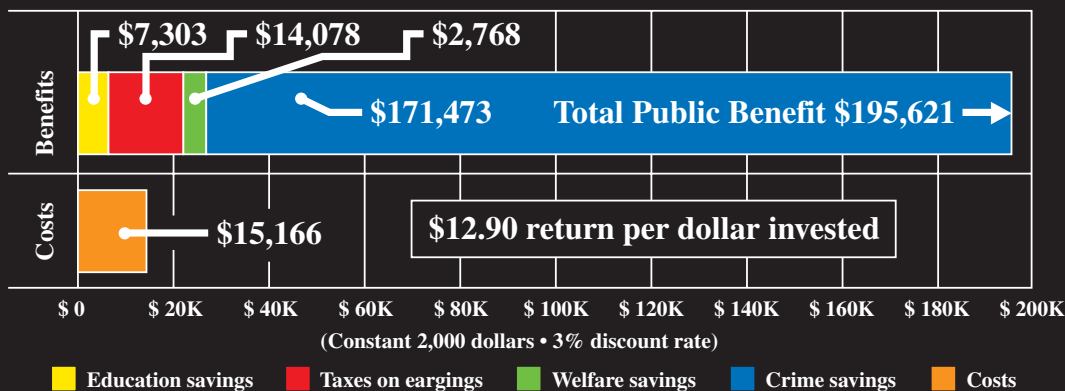


## HIGH/SCOPE PERRY PRESCHOOL STUDY MAJOR FINDINGS AT AGE 27



High/Scope Perry Preschool Study<sup>33</sup>

## HIGH/SCOPE PERRY PRESCHOOL PROGRAM PUBLIC COSTS AND BENEFITS<sup>31</sup>



## Fifth Anniversary Report 1999-2004 | Five Years of Results

April 2004 brought another state level partner to the table, joining forces with all First Steps partnerships to promote early literacy in neighborhoods across South Carolina. The Miss South Carolina Organization announced its partnership with First Steps to promote increased early literacy levels through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library books to the home initiative.

Since 2002, First Steps and its partners mailed books monthly to more than 17,500 children under age 5 through the Imagination Library.

Research shows that exposure to books at an early age will increase a child's vocabulary and improve the child's likelihood of being a proficient reader. Having access to quality, age-appropriate books in the home is an effective means to increase parents' time spent reading with children, make children more interested in books, make parents more comfortable reading to children and increase parent awareness of their children's reading levels.<sup>32</sup>



United Way

**S**UCCESS **B**Y **6**<sup>TM</sup>

 **MISS SOUTH CAROLINA**

SOUTH CAROLINA  
**FIRST  
STEPS**  
Getting children ready for school.



# ACCOUNTABILITY PROMISE: INVESTING IN SC'S CHILDREN

**Financials:** From 2002-2004, First Steps reached 282,890 children with an average of less than one-third of one percent of South Carolina's state budget.

South Carolina's First Steps to School Readiness brings diverse people and resources together to address the most urgent readiness issues that South Carolina's children and families face.

Through unique partnerships and approaches, First Steps mobilizes resources beyond the state allocated dollars by leveraging federal grants, planned gifts, in-kind contributions and volunteer time.

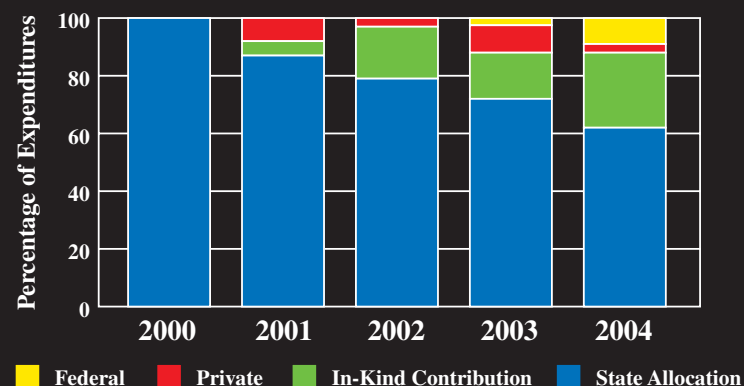
The chart to the right clearly demonstrates the leveraged funds from outside resources – the program managed to decrease its reliance on state funds from 100 percent in 2000 to less than 72 percent in 2004. In addition to increasing funding from all non-state, First Steps volunteers gave more than \$3 million dollars worth of their time to help South Carolina's youngest children prepare for first grade.<sup>31</sup>

To date, the audits reported a positive financial position for the First Steps state office and all county partnerships and noted no material findings at any level.

## FAST FACT:

Over the past three years, First Steps increased the use of federal funds in early childhood programs from \$44,000 in 2002 to \$2.3 million in 2004.

FIRST STEPS RESOURCES 2000-2004



## Fifth Anniversary Report 1999-2004 | Five Years of Results

### STATEWIDE BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

Fiscal Years 2000 thru 2004 (July 1999 to June 2004)

*State Appropriated Dollars Only*

STATE - LEVEL BUDGET	Millions	Percentage
State Appropriated (Recurring Funds)	\$ 102,508,000	
State Appropriated (Non-recurring Funds)	\$ 17,000,000	
Interest Income	\$ 5,256,000	
Budget Cuts	\$ (29,884,000)	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 94,880,000</b>	
<b>DISTRIBUTION OF BUDGET</b>		
State Office Administration	\$ 9,035,000	9.5%
State Office Programmatic	\$ 2,073,000	2.2%
Available for County Partnerships	\$ 83,772,000	88.3%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 94,880,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
<b>ACTUAL EXPENDITURES</b>		
State Office Administration	\$ 7,789,000	8.2%
State Office Programmatic	\$ 1,678,000	1.8%
County Partnerships	\$ 85,225,000	90.0%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 94,692,000</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
NET (Carryover to Fiscal Year 2005)	\$ 188	

# ACCOUNTABILITY PROMISE: INVESTING IN SC'S CHILDREN

HISTORICAL FUNDING						
	FY 2000 APPROP	FY 2001 APPROP	FY 2002 APPROP	FY 2003 APPROP	FY 2004 APPROP	TOTAL APPROP
Recurring Appropriation	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 20,000,000	\$ 23,041,000	\$ 20,927,553	\$ 18,540,421	\$ 102,508,974
Non-Recurring Appropriation		10,000,000		7,000,000		\$ 17,000,000
Budget Cuts/Sequestered		(200,000)	(921,640)	(1,396,378)	(185,404)	(\$ 2,703,422)
Budget Cuts/Sequestered			(1,191,807)	(990,754)		(\$ 2,182,561)
<b>Revised Appropriations</b>	<b>\$ 20,000,000</b>	<b>\$ 29,800,000</b>	<b>\$ 20,927,553</b>	<b>\$ 25,540,421</b>	<b>\$ 18,355,017</b>	<b>\$ 114,622,991</b>



## Fifth Anniversary Report 1999-2004 | Five Years of Results

### FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY:

Ensuring First Steps dollars are well spent and effectively used

First Steps enabling legislation requires the South Carolina First Steps state office create a statewide standardized fiscal accountability system. The development of such a system resulted in the following:

**REGIONAL FINANCE MANAGERS (RFM):** Certified Public Accountant firms and professional bookkeepers were selected to provide regional management of accounting and tax functions – ensuring quality. This eliminated the need for each county partnership to purchase the same function independently – achieving economics of scale. RFM services to county partnerships include but not limited the following:

- Assists in budget formulation
- Advises on spending trends
- Generates reports (budget, revenue, expenditures, etc.)
- Prepares payroll and vendor checks
- Manages bank accounts
- Maintains accounting system database
- Acts on county partnership behalf during audit reviews

First Steps legislation requires that no county partnership may supplant other state or federal funding with First Steps state appropriated dollars – eliminating duplication and maximizing resources.

**ACCOUNTING SOFTWARE:** Provided and implemented a unified real-time internet-based accounting software used by all RFMs and First Steps state office staff.

**FISCAL OPERATIONS MANUAL:** Created and distributed a comprehensive manual that instructs county partnerships about compliance with First Steps legislation and policies/procedures.

**TRAINING:** Provided complete and detailed fiscal accountability training to county partnership staff.

**PARTNERSHIP BUDGETS:** Approved for each county partnership to manage spending.

**AUDITS:** Conducted on all county partnerships and RFMs by an independent auditing firm. These audits reviews highlighted a very positive financial position for all county partnerships. No material problems were noted at any level of the audit.

**EVALUATION:** Conducted on the fiscal accountability system by a national independent evaluator and determined to be a sound and cost effective for ensuring quality financial management of First Steps resources.

#### SECTION 59-152-150.

Development and adoption of standard fiscal accountability system; private funds to be held separate; disbursements; applicable offenses.

(A) The Office of First Steps to School Readiness shall develop and require partnerships to adopt and implement a standard fiscal accountability system including, but not limited to, a uniform, standardized system of accounting, internal controls, payroll, fidelity bonding, chart of accounts, and contract management and monitoring. Additionally, the accountability system shall require competitive bids for the purchase or procurement of goods and services of ten thousand dollars or more. A bid other than the lowest bid may be accepted by a majority vote of the county partnership board if other considerations outweigh the cost factor; however, written justification must be filed with the Office of First Steps. The Office of First Steps may contract with outside firms to develop and ensure implementation of this standard fiscal accountability system, and the Office of First Steps may inspect fiscal and program records of county partnerships and developing partnerships to ensure their compliance with the required system. The Office of First Steps may contract with a state entity with existing means for developing contracts and disbursing funds in order to make use of the existing infrastructure, if it is efficient and not administratively burdensome to partnerships.



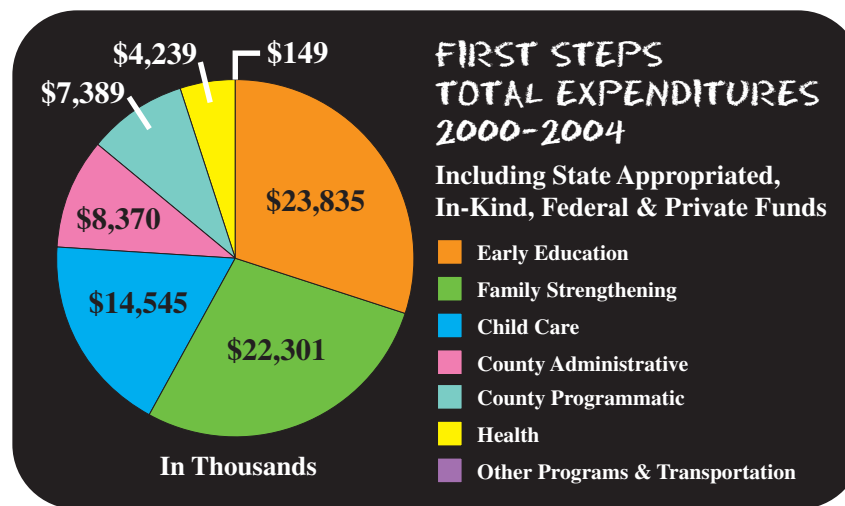
# ACCOUNTABILITY PROMISE: INVESTING IN SC'S CHILDREN

## OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

According to the Minneapolis Federal Reserve Bank, "Studies find that well-focused investments in early childhood development yields high public as well as private returns."<sup>32</sup> For every \$1 that is invested in school readiness programs, the state returns \$12.90.<sup>33</sup>

By investing in South Carolina's children early, the state saves significant amounts of money in preventable costs. For example, from 2000-2002, the average cost of low birth weight newborns to South Carolina was more than \$166 million dollars annually – 60 percent of that Medicaid cost is preventable.<sup>34</sup> Another avoidable expenditure is the cost of school retention. In 2002, 6.6% of SC's children were retained in first grade.<sup>35</sup>

As the exploded pie chart to the right demonstrates, First Steps invests more than 90 percent of its funds on program-related expenditures. Not only will these investments help the children get ready for school, but they will also reduce the drain of preventable expenditures on South Carolina's budget.





## FIRST STEPS FUNDING FORMULA

Section 59-12-90 (E) of the enabling legislation mandates that the First Steps State Board of Trustees (BOT) allocate funds by formula to county partnerships. Used to calculate the share of the First Steps state-appropriated funds, the formula was designed to include the objective and subjective factors specified in the First Steps legislation.

“The allocations for the grants shall take into consideration the quality of the grant proposal; the population of children birth to age five contained in the area served by the partnership; the percentage of students in grades 1-3 who are eligible for the free and reduced price lunch program; average per capita income; and the area’s ability to support the strategic plan initiative. The criteria also shall take into account the standing of the geographical area covered by a county partnership in relation to the statewide Kids Count indicators. Priority must be given to strategic plans that incorporate models with demonstrated success.”

The formula was based on population distributions for all variables, except per capita income, and the variables are weighted as follows:

## FIRST STEPS FUNDING MODEL:

Population of Young Children .....	30%
Children Eligible for Free/Reduced Lunch .....	20%
Average Per Capital Income .....	20%

### SC Kids Count Factors:<sup>36</sup>

Children testing not ready for first grade .....	5%
Children who are over age in third grade .....	5%
Children in third grade performing below basic on PACT reading ..	5%
Children in third grade performing below basic on PACT math ...	5%
Low Birth Weight Infants .....	5%
Birth to mothers with less than high school education .....	5%
Total .....	100%



## 2000-2004 FIRST STEPS QUICK FACTS

Children Served:

282,890

Families and Adults Served:

46,459

Research-based Readiness Programs Implemented or Expanded:

52

Private Child Care Facilities Served:

2,340

Vouchers for Quality Childcare:

3,830

Full- or Half-Day 4-K Slots:

13,497

First Steps County Partnerships:

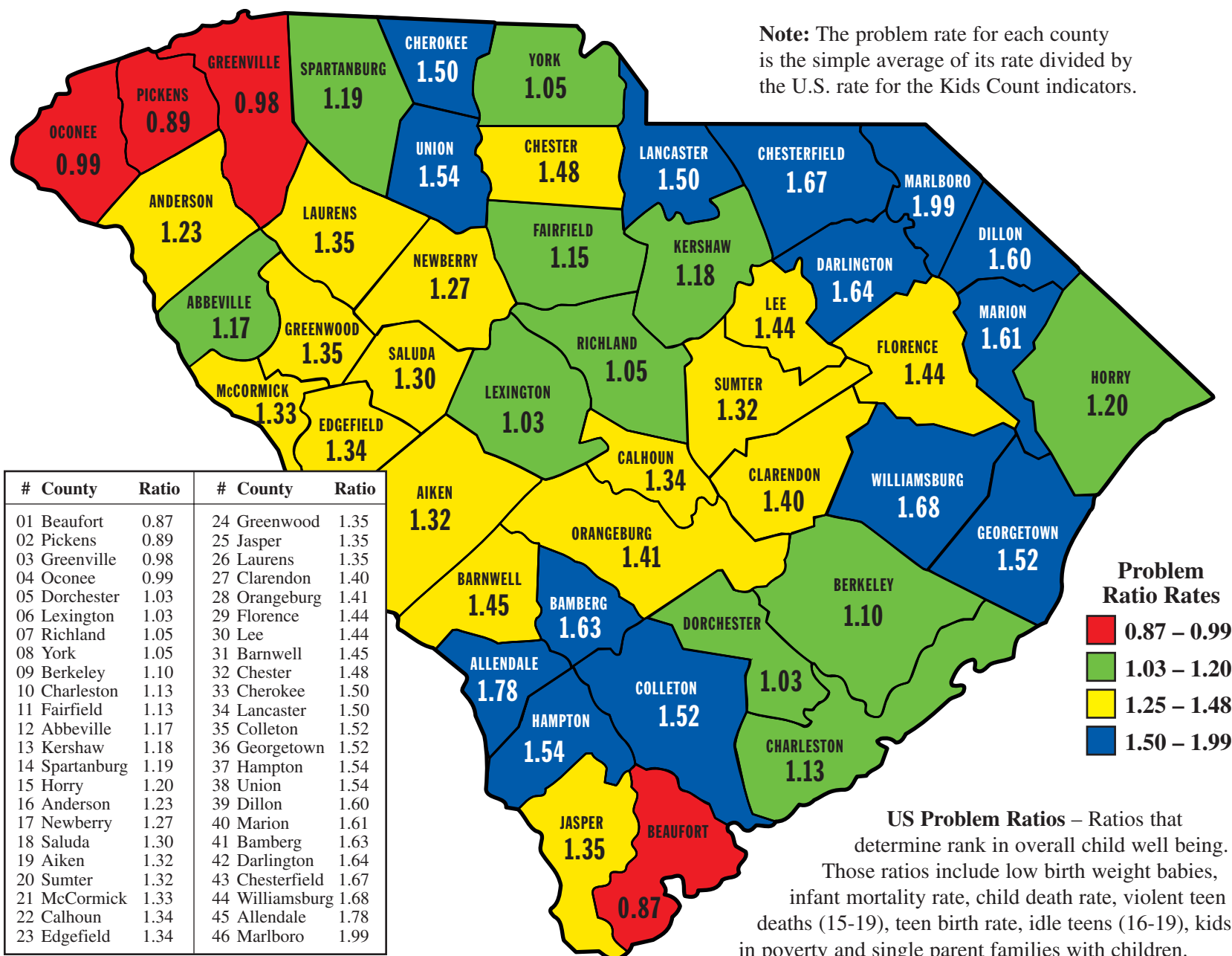
46

Value of Volunteer Time:

MORE THAN \$3 MILLION

# COUNTY DATA

## South Carolina Counties by U.S. Problem Ratios<sup>40</sup>



# ABBEVILLE COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics<sup>41</sup>

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	1,077
Under age 6	2,105

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	62.4%
Black only, non-Hispanic	33.7%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.1%
Hispanic	1.8%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	1,585
Single Householder	37.2%
All parents in Labor Force	63.1%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Half Day 4-K	20
Full Day 4-K	60
Other Early Education	139
Summer Readiness	30

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	196
Parent Training	11

#### Family Strengthening (children)

Library-based Program	108
-----------------------	-----

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	6
----------------------------	---

#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	45
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#### Health (adults/families)

Home-based Services	21
---------------------	----

### At-Risk Children<sup>42</sup>

#### Poverty & Medicaid

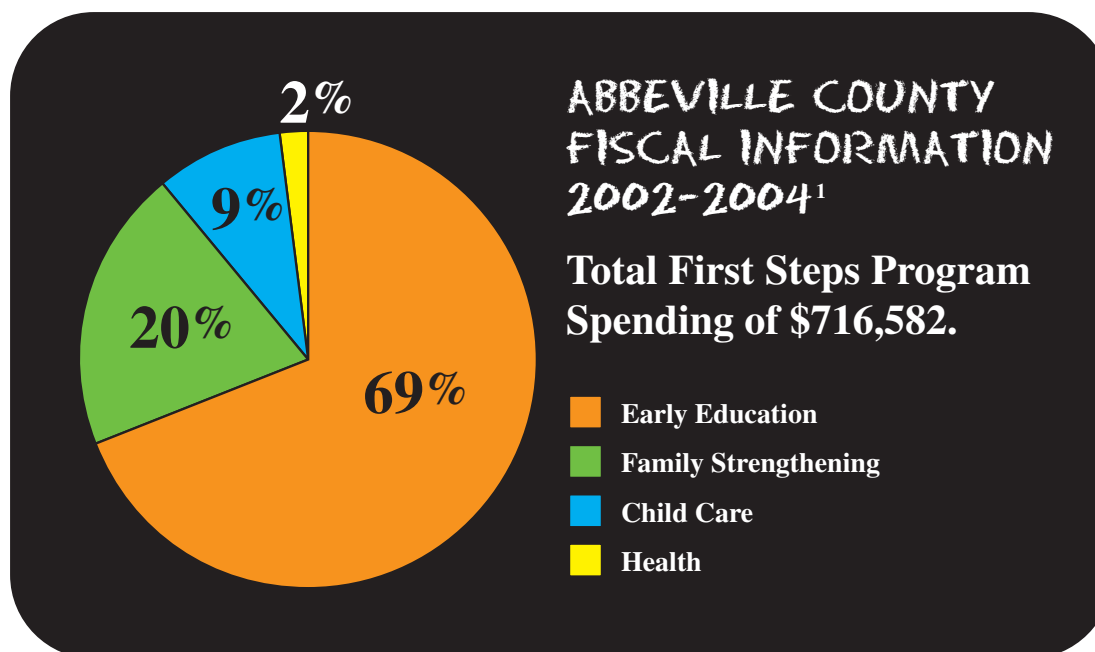
Children in Poverty <sup>43</sup>	18%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid <sup>44</sup>	47.1%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch <sup>45</sup>	67.5%

#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births <sup>46</sup>	331
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women <sup>47</sup>	41.1%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas <sup>48</sup>	22.2%
Births to Mothers Under 18 <sup>49</sup>	4.2%
Low Birth Weight <sup>50</sup>	10.1%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care <sup>51</sup>	22.4%

### Education Statistics<sup>52</sup>

Children in Public 4-K as % of All 4-year-olds <sup>53</sup>	31.9%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K <sup>54</sup>	19
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3 <sup>55</sup>	17.1%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade <sup>56</sup>	7.2%



# AIKEN COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	5,677
Under age 6	11,468

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	61.1%
Black only, non-Hispanic	31.6%
Other, non-Hispanic	3.7%
Hispanic	3.6%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	8,540
Single Householder	32.5%
All parents in Labor Force	61.1%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	220
Other Early Education	200
Summer Readiness	243

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parent-Child Home-Program	50
Parent Training	110
Other Multiple Strategies	44

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	84
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#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	196
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#### Health (adults/families)

Non Home-Based Services	419
Home-based Services	48

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

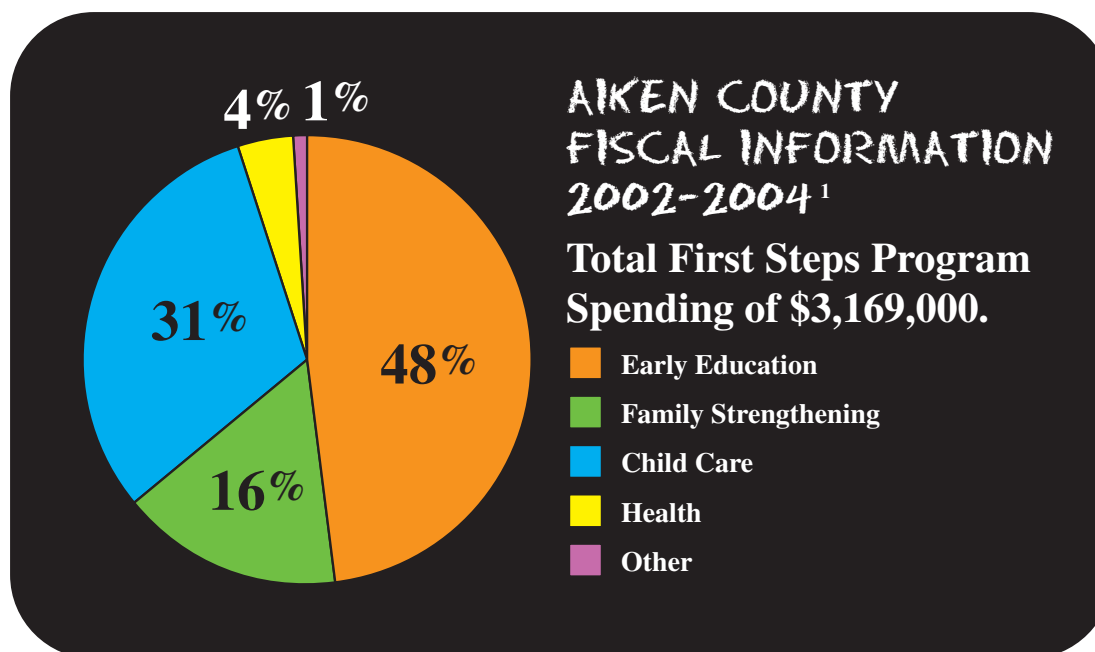
Children in Poverty	19%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	50.6%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	58.7%

#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	1,777
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	41.2%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	21.2%
Births to Mothers Under 18	4.7%
Low Birth Weight	9.7%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	30.2%

### Education Statistics

Children in Public 4-K as % of All 4-year-olds	38.3%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	180
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	5.9%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	17.9%





# ALLENDALE COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	455
Under age 6	939

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	16.7%
Black only, non-Hispanic	80.8%
Other, non-Hispanic	1%
Hispanic	1.5%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Familie	677
Single Householder	60.1%
All parents in Labor Force	53.2%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	40
Summer Readiness	24
Other Early Education	510

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	93
Other Multiple Strategies	358

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	11
Staff Training & Development	6

#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	82
Other Childcare	158

#### Health (adults/families)

Public Health-Based Services	320
------------------------------	-----

#### Other Programs (children)

728

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	48%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	84.6%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	85.6%

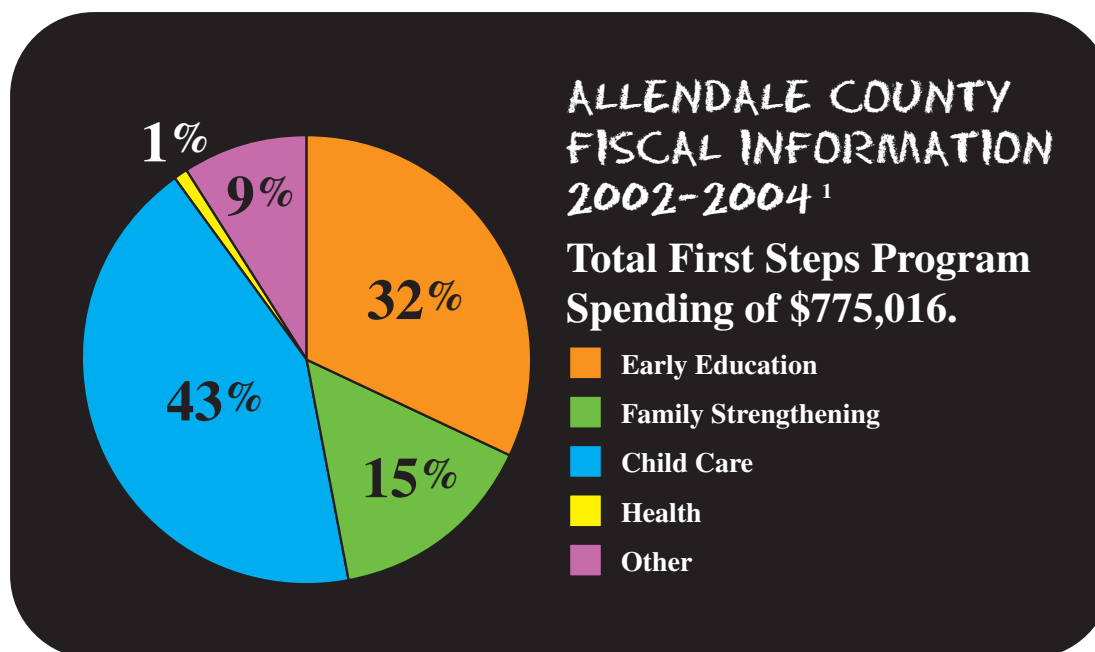
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	162
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	71.7%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	27.4%
Births to Mothers Under 18	14.2%
Low Birth Weight	13%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	38.3%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	67.9%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	10
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 &3	2.4%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	4.8%



# ANDERSON COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	6,592
Under age 6	13,315

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	74.4%
Black only, non-Hispanic	20.7%
Other, non-Hispanic	3.2%
Hispanic	1.8%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	10,081
Single Householder	30.5%
All parents in Labor Force	61.3%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Half Day 4-K	194
Other Early Education	150
Summer Readiness	554

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	444
Family Literacy	32
Other Multiple Strategies	2,085

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	35
----------------------------	----

#### Health (adults/families)

Public Health-Based Services	150
Non Home-Based Services	402
Home-based Services	455

#### Other (children)

Any Program	1,356
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### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	16%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	43.3%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	47.2%

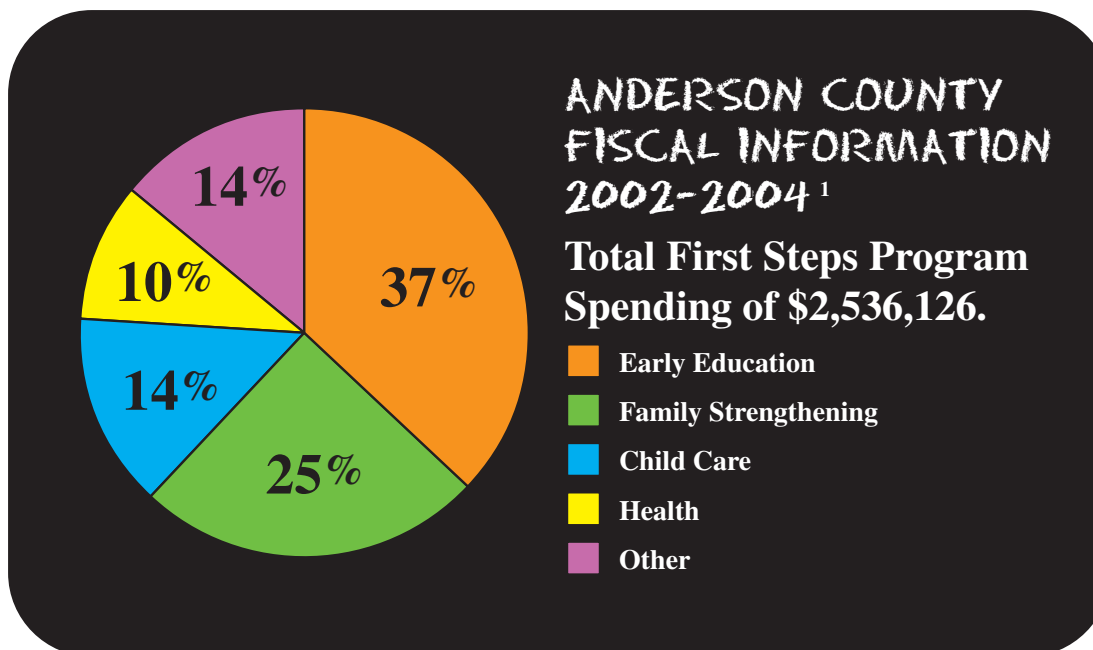
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	2,235
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	36.4%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	24.1%
Births to Mothers Under 18	4.3%
Low Birth Weight	8.5%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	18.7%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	26.6%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	216
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	10.9%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	11.9%



# BAMBERG COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	624
Under age 6	1,261

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	31.5%
Black only, non-Hispanic	66%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.7%
Hispanic	0.1%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	961
Single Householder	45.3%
All parents in Labor Force	64.8%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	63
Summer Readiness	101

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	158
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#### Family Strengthening (children)

Library-based Program	1,500
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	20
----------------------------	----

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	35%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	70.2%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	75.6%

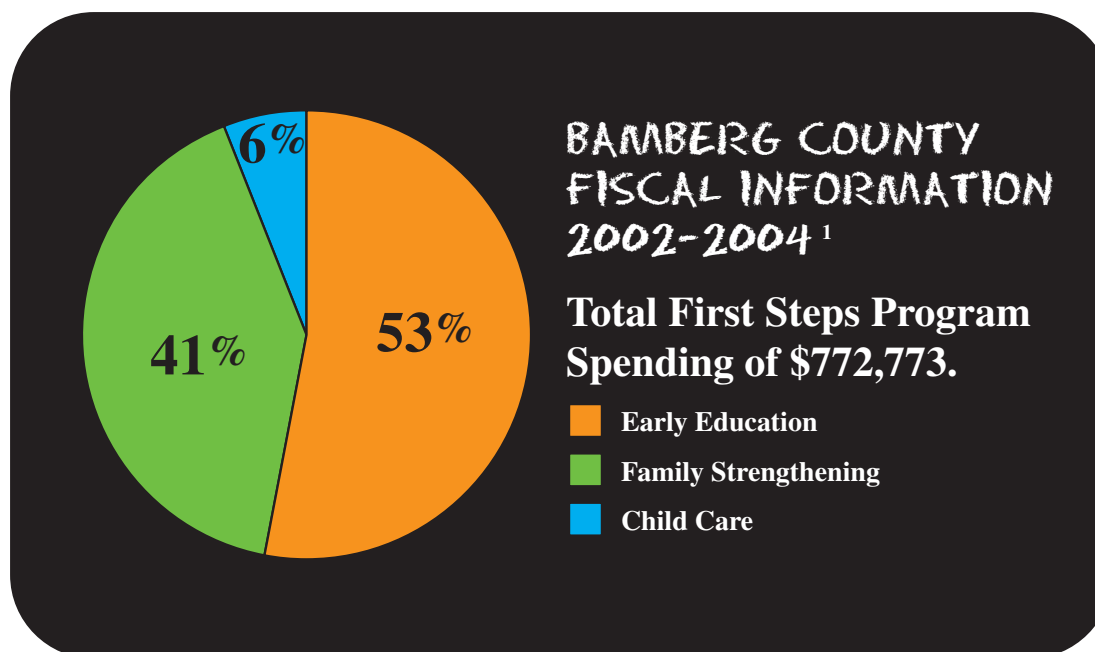
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	184
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	54.1%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	23.3%
Births to Mothers Under 18	5.4%
Low Birth Weight	11.1%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	31%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	53.4%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	17
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	24%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	11.3%





### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	1,003
Under age 6	2,009

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	45.2%
Black only, non-Hispanic	50.2%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.6%
Hispanic	1.9%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	1,457
Single Householder	42.1%
All parents in Labor Force	60.2%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Extended 4-K from Partial to Full Day	80
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#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	209
Parent Training	38
Other Multiple Strategies	218

#### Family Strengthening (children)

Library-based Program	773
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#### Health (adults/families)

Public Health-Based Services	451
------------------------------	-----

#### Other (children)

Any Program	842
-------------	-----

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	28%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	65.9%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	70.9%

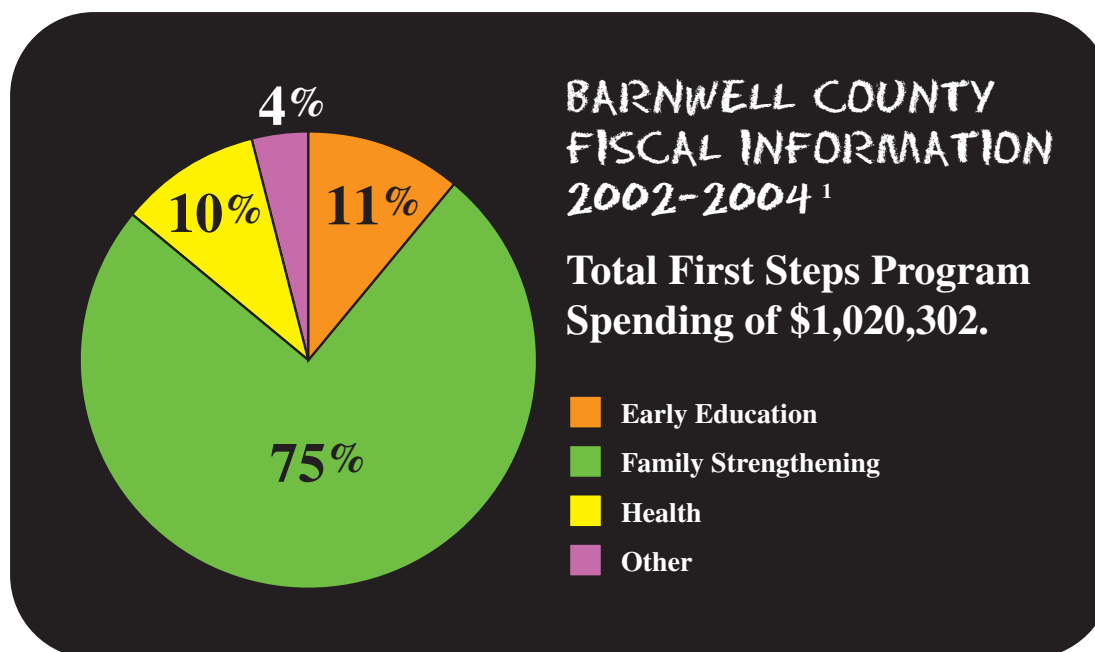
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	327
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	53.1%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	22.1%
Births to Mothers Under 18	4.3%
Low Birth Weight	13%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	31.8%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	46.3%
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	23.9%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	14.8%



# BEAUFORT COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	4,929
Under age 6	9,691

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	56.4%
Black only, non-Hispanic	28.8%
Other, non-Hispanic	3.9%
Hispanic	10.9%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	7,158
Single Householder	26.3%
All parents in Labor Force	56.9%

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	16%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	38.9%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	51.5%

#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	2,103
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	34.1%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	17.6%
Births to Mothers Under 18	4.1%
Low Birth Weight	7.1%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	44.7%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	41.4%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	136
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	8.7%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	17.1%



**SC COUNTY  
RANK BY  
U.S. PROBLEM  
RATIOS  
(see page 41)**

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	49
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#### Childcare (facilities)

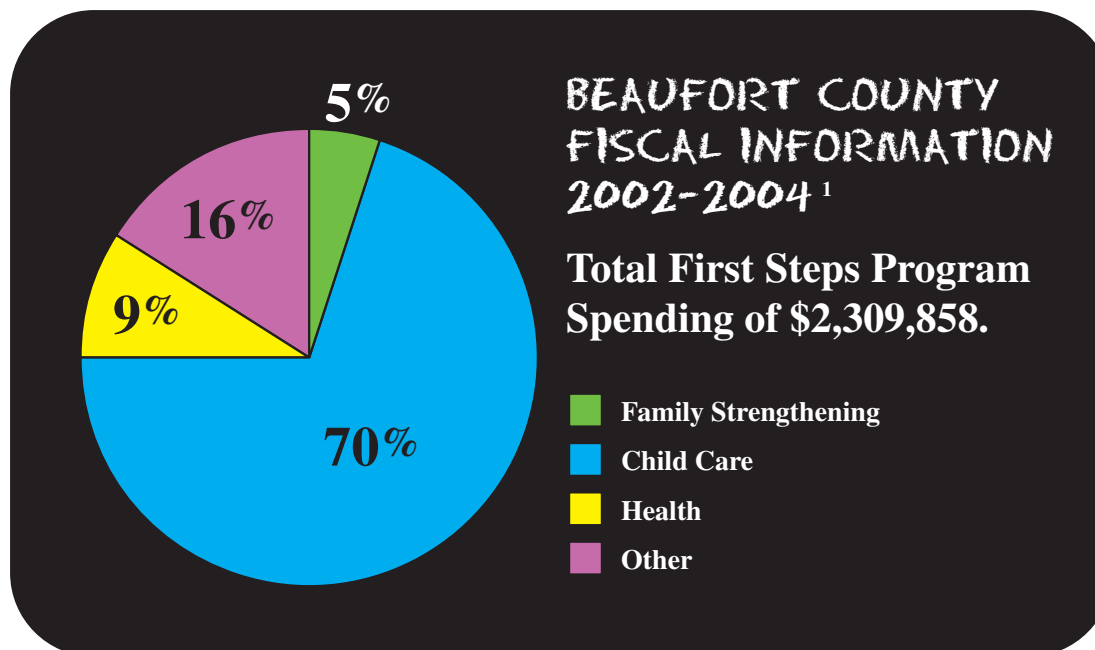
Quality Enhancement Grants	147
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#### Health (adults/families)

Public Health-Based Services	548
Non Home-Based Services	981

#### Other (families/adults)

Any Program	100
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### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	6,214
Under age 6	12,323

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	63.2%
Black only, non-Hispanic	28.3%
Other, non-Hispanic	4.9%
Hispanic	3.6%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	9,348
Single Householder	28.1%
All parents in Labor Force	62.2%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Half Day 4-K	40
Full Day 4-K	307
Other Early Education	20
Summer Readiness	387

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	520
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#### Family Strengthening (children)

Imagination Library	317
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	26
----------------------------	----

#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	102
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#### Health (adults/families)

Home-based Services	551
---------------------	-----

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	16%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	46.5%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	56.4%

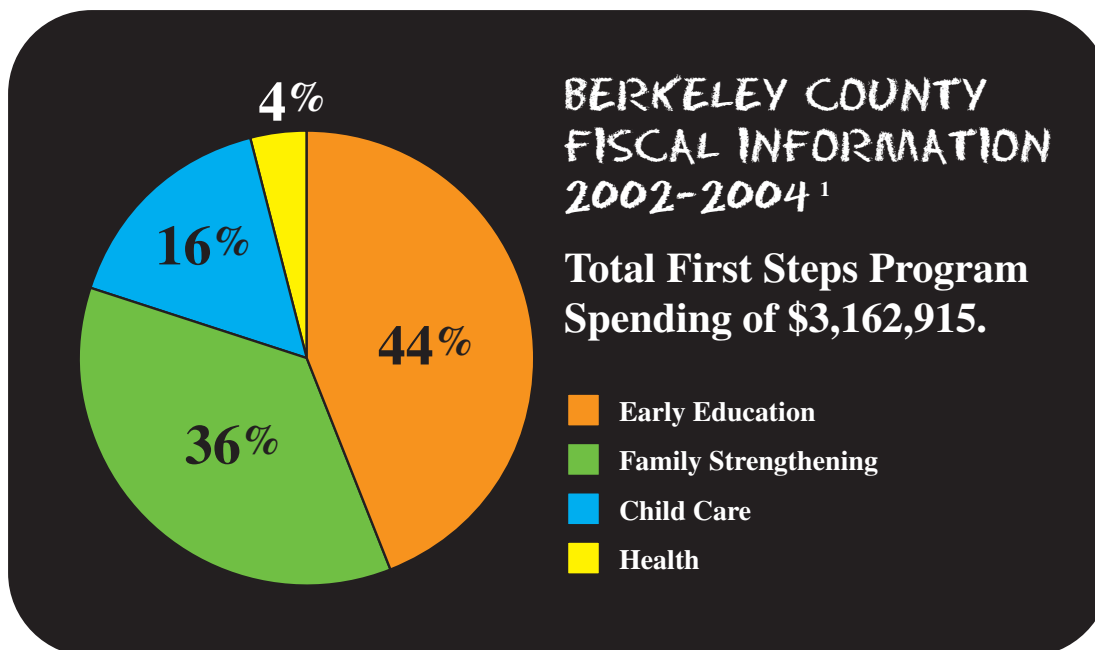
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	2,104
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	35.2%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	16%
Births to Mothers Under 18	3.8%
Low Birth Weight	8.8%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	23.3%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	40.7%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	200
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	14.3%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	11.8%



# CALHOUN COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	572
Under age 6	1,147

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	40.4%
Black only, non-Hispanic	55.3%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.7%
Hispanic	2.6%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	884
Single Householder	34.4%
All parents in Labor Force	63.4%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	96
Summer Readiness	76

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Other Multiple Strategies	171
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#### Family Strengthening (children)

Library-based Program	114
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	1
----------------------------	---

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	21%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	54.1%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	86.3%

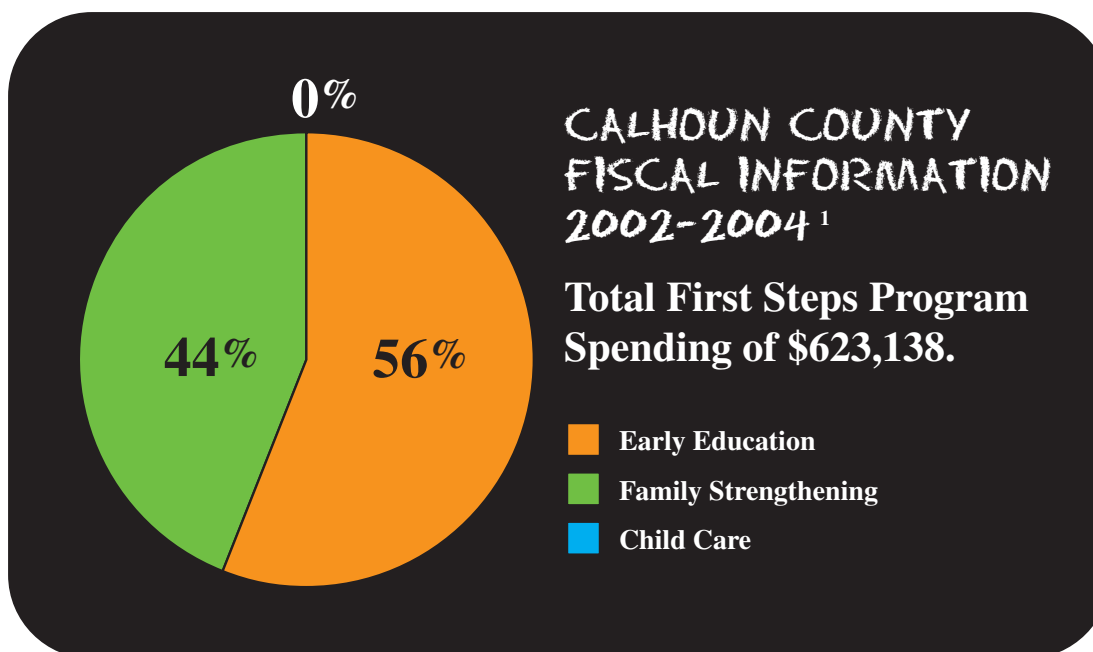
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	176
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	43.4%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	17.4%
Births to Mothers Under 18	4.5%
Low Birth Weight	10.4%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	34.7%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	68.8%
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	12.3%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	12.1%



# CHARLESTON COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	12,253
Under age 6	23,657

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	52%
Black only, non-Hispanic	40.6%
Other, non-Hispanic	3.9%
Hispanic	3.5%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	17,794
Single Householder	37.1%
All parents in Labor Force	60.8%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	156
Other Early Education	280
Summer Readiness	513

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parent Training	971
English as a Second Language	213
Other Multiple Strategies	664

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	104
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#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	333
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#### Health (adults/families)

Home-based Services	743
---------------------	-----

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	23%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	50.2%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	56.5%

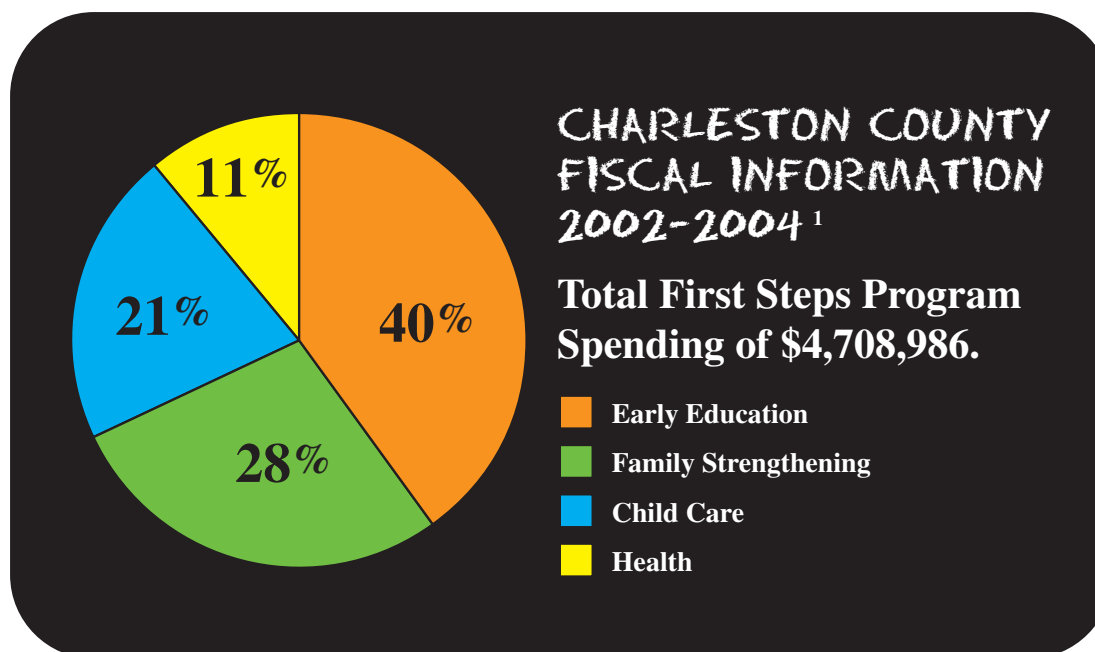
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	4,655
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	42.3%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	19.1%
Births to Mothers Under 18	4.4%
Low Birth Weight	10.2%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	26.5%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	34.9%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	412
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	16%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	16%



# CHEROKEE COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	2,300
Under age 6	4,472

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	69.3%
Black only, non-Hispanic	24.7%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.3%
Hispanic	3.7%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	3,384
Single Householder	35.5%
All parents in Labor Force	66.9%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	209
Summer Readiness	75

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	373
Other Multiple Strategies	55

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	42
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#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	84
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### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	17%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	52%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	60.2%

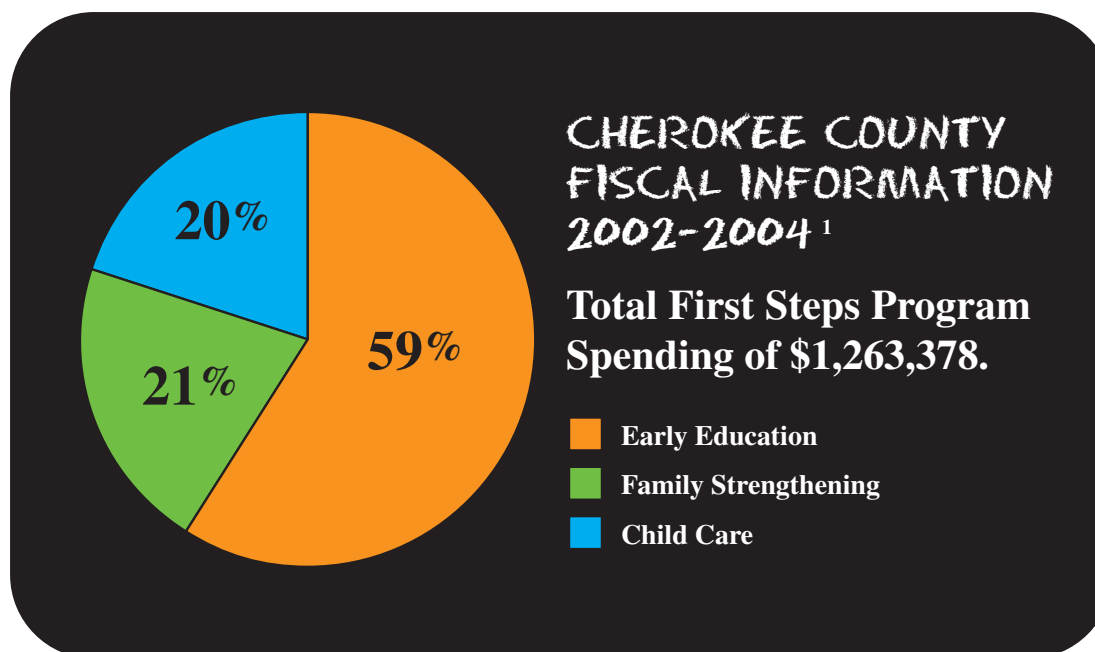
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	710
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	40.3%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	30.9%
Births to Mothers Under 18	6.8%
Low Birth Weight	11.6%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	19.3%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	44.9%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for Private 4-K	117
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	5.3%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	13.7%





### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	1,397
Under age 6	2,778

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	52.3%
Black only, non-Hispanic	43.8%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.8%
Hispanic	1.2%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	2,082
Single Householder	40%
All parents in Labor Force	68.9%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Half Day 4-K	160
Other Early Education	239
Summer Readiness	104

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	231
Other Multiple Strategies	53

#### Family Strengthening (children)

Library-based Program	773
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	13
Staff Training & Development	12

#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	61
--------------	----

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	2%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	56.7%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	64.9%

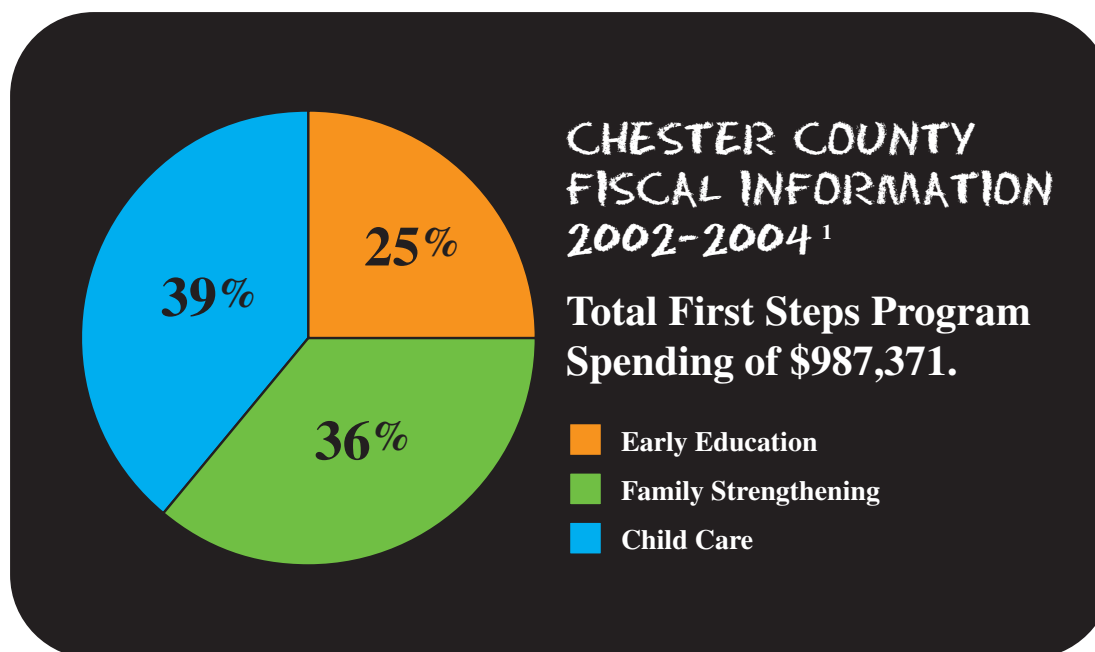
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	416
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	53%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	26%
Births to Mothers Under 18	7.5%
Low Birth Weight	9.5%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	32%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	40.2%
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	18%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	11.3%





# CHESTERFIELD COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	1,716
Under age 6	3,522

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	54.9%
Black only, non-Hispanic	38.6%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.9%
Hispanic	3.6%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	2,654
Single Householder	36.7%
All parents in Labor Force	63.1%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Half Day 4-K	100
Other Early Education	1,782
Summer Readiness	221

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	86
Other Multiple Strategies	228

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	14
Staff Training & Development	47

#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	14
Facility Expansion	70

#### Health (adults/families)

Home-based Services	10
---------------------	----

#### Other (families/adults)

Any Program	565
-------------	-----

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	25%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	62.9%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	67.8%

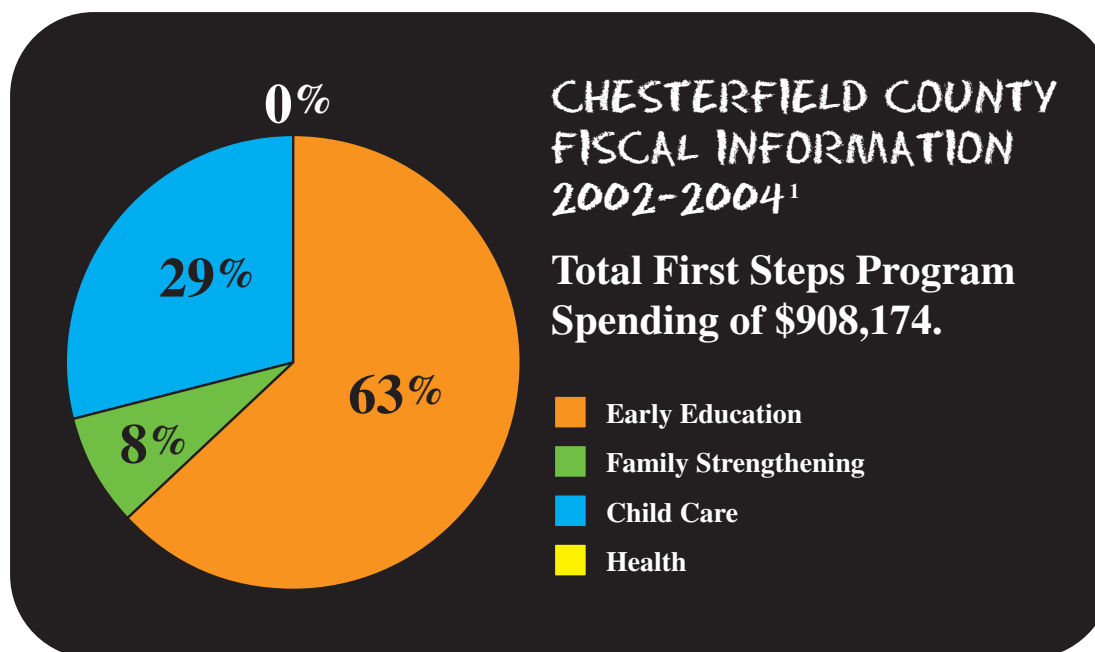
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	523
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	49.9%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	27.5%
Births to Mothers Under 18	4.4%
Low Birth Weight	13%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	22.2%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	43.9%
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	5.7%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	7.9%



# CLARENDON COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	1,161
Under age 6	2,407

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	7.7%
Black only, non-Hispanic	57.6%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.5%
Hispanic	3.2%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	1,830
Single Householder	43.2%
All parents in Labor Force	61.4%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Half Day 4-K	130
Full Day 4-K	157
Other Early Education	85

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	33
Other Multiple Strategies	62

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	14
----------------------------	----

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	28%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	76.8%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	77.4%

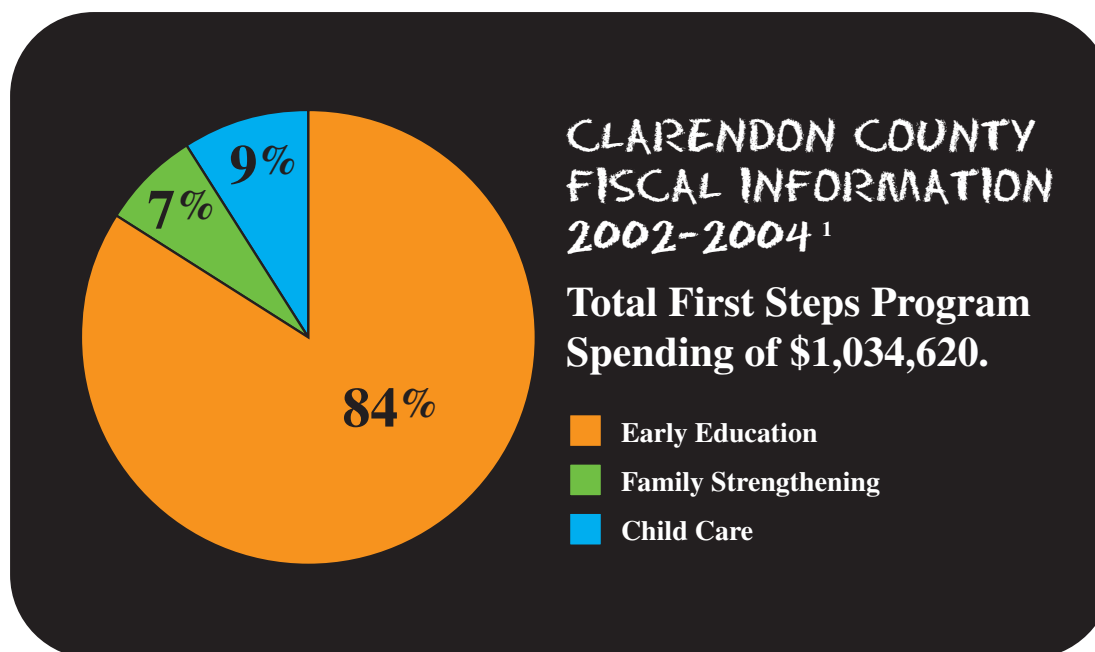
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	403
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	54.9%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	23.2%
Births to Mothers Under 18	6%
Low Birth Weight	13.1%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	28.5%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	59.2%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	80
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	20%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	12.5%



# COLLETON COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	1,583
Under age 6	3,186

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	47.6%
Black only, non-Hispanic	47.9%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.7%
Hispanic	1.8%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	2,366
Single Householder	37.9%
All parents in Labor Force	56.2%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	111
Other Early Education	161
Summer Readiness	51

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	175
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#### Family Strengthening (children)

Library-based Program	1,717
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	26
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#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	66
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#### Health (adults/families)

Nutrition Programs	19
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### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

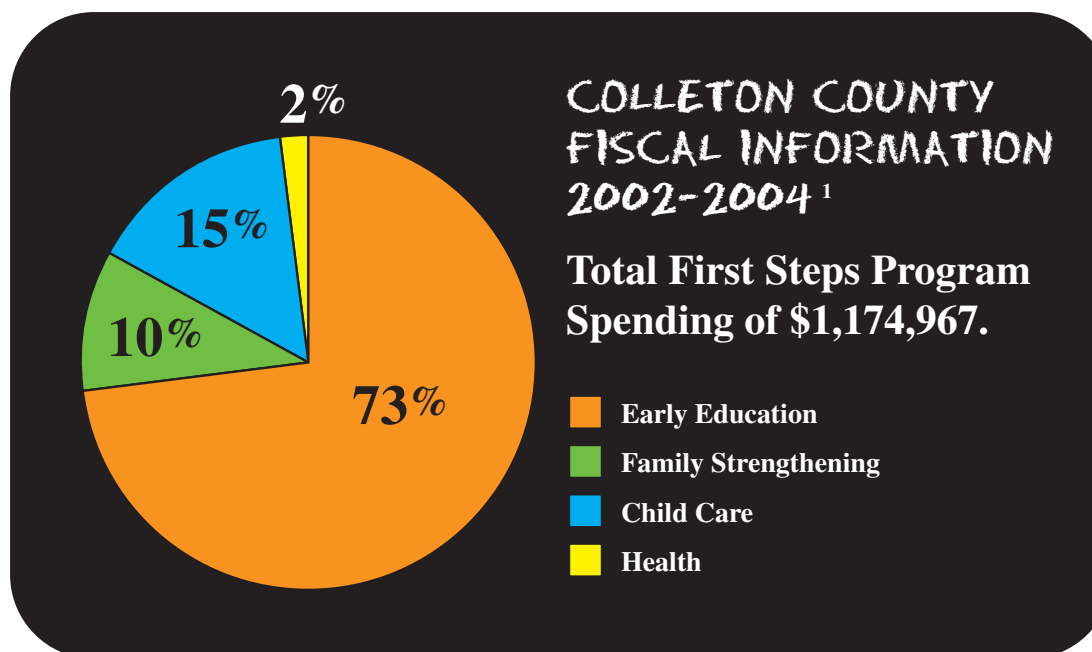
Children in Poverty	29%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	70.1%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	78.4%

#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	508
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	48.6%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	25.7%
Births to Mothers Under 18	5.9%
Low Birth Weight	8.7%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	17.7%

### Education Statistics

Children in Public 4-K as % of All 4-year-olds	47.9%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	100
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	22.4%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	24.3%



# DARLINGTON COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	2,831
Under age 6	5,637

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	45.6%
Black only, non-Hispanic	51.6%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.5%
Hispanic	1.3%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	4,231
Single Householder	41.3%
All parents in Labor Force	58.1%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	151
Parent-Child Home-Program	16

#### Early Education (children)

Half Day 4-K	79
Full Day 4-K	49
Summer Readiness	176
Other Early Education	40

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	45
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#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	185
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### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	27%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	63.1%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	71.4%

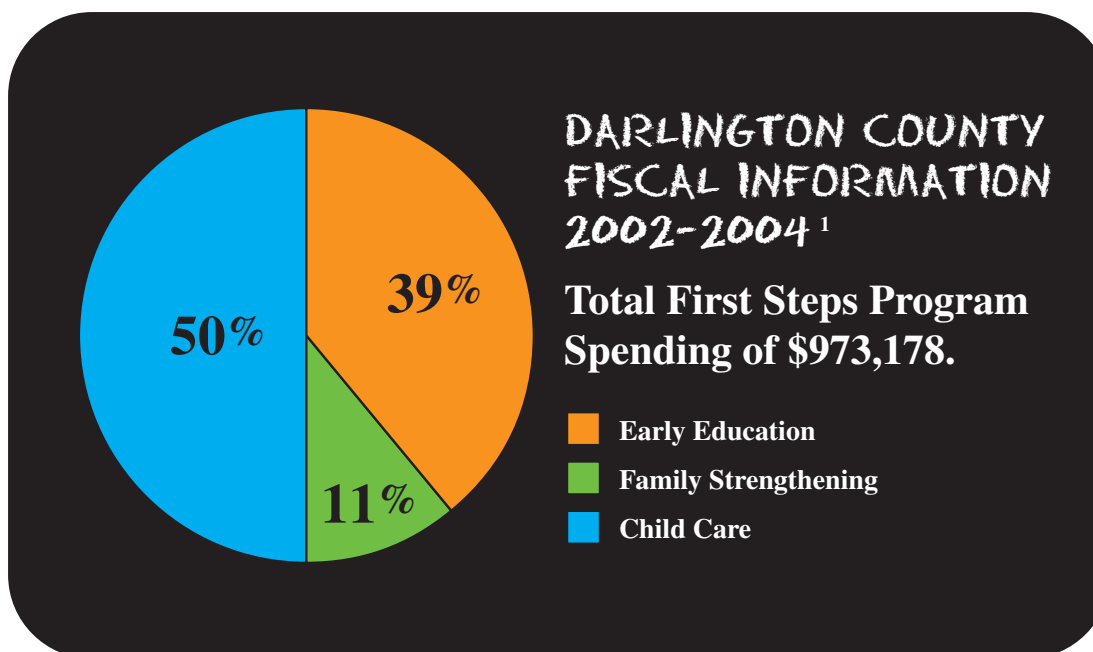
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	842
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	50.9%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	23.8%
Births to Mothers Under 18	5.8%
Low Birth Weight	12.1%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	24.8%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	31.6%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	110
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	12.4%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	9.4%



# DILLON COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	1,341
Under age 6	2,797

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	37.3%
Black only, non-Hispanic	54.7%
Other, non-Hispanic	5%
Hispanic	2.9%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	2,014
Single Householder	48.1%
All parents in Labor Force	62.7%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	80
Other Early Education	76

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parent-Child Home-Program	178
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#### Family Strengthening (children)

Library-based Program	160
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	18
Other Childcare	30

#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	54
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#### Health (adults/families)

Home-based Services	176
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### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	33%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	75.9%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	79.6%

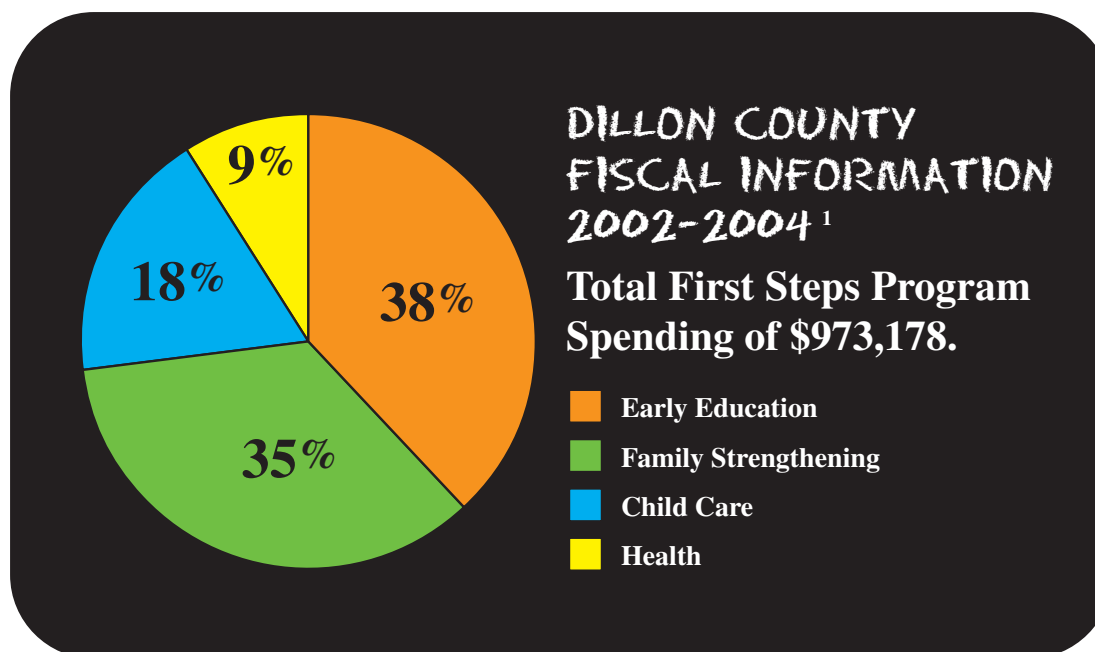
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	483
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	61.9%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	32.6%
Births to Mothers Under 18	7%
Low Birth Weight	11.3%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	29.8%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	46.3%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	140
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	18.9%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	17.2%







### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	3,769
Under age 6	7,905

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	66.8%
Black only, non-Hispanic	26.4%
Other, non-Hispanic	4.2%
Hispanic	2.7%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	6,107
Single Householder	28.7%
All parents in Labor Force	66.4%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	82
Other Early Education	80
Summer Readiness	40

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	80
Parent-Child Home-Program	305

#### Family Strengthening (children)

Library-based Program	16,122
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	22
Staff Training & Development	9

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	12%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	39.6%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	40.2%

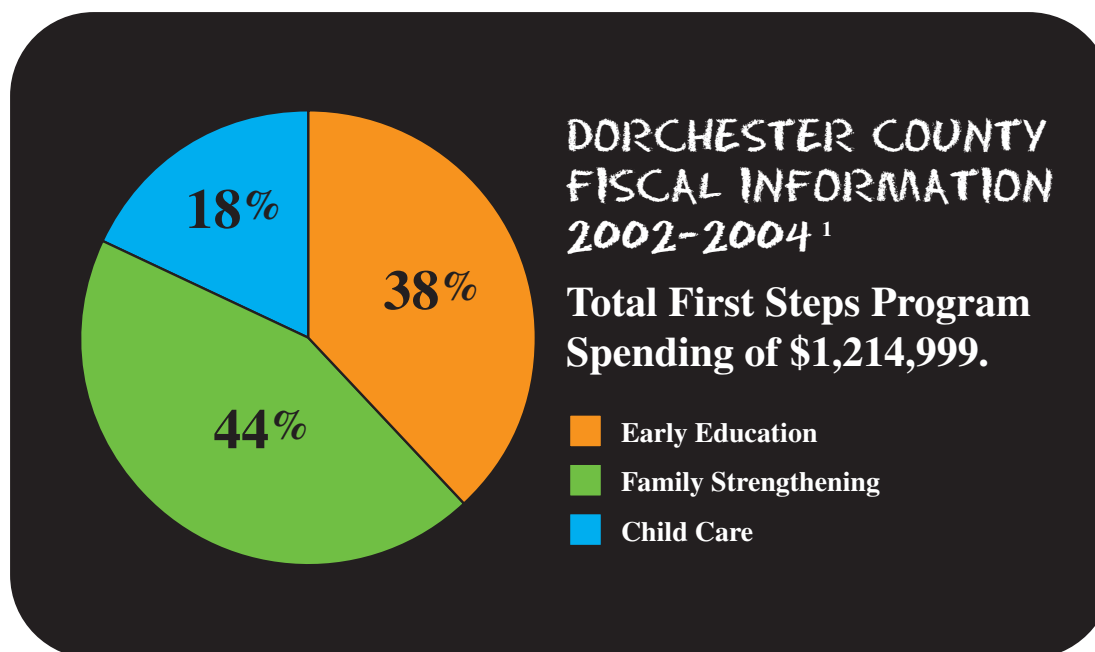
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	1,339
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	37.9%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	16.7%
Births to Mothers Under 18	3.7%
Low Birth Weight	9.3%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	22.6%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	32.8%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	56
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	7.1%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	15.8%



# EDGEFIELD COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	896
Under age 6	1,791

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	54.9%
Black only, non-Hispanic	40.4%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.7%
Hispanic	3%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	1,346
Single Householder	30.8%
All parents in Labor Force	55.4%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Half Day 4-K	37
Full Day 4-K	59
Other Early Education	33
Summer Readiness	103

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	116
Family Literacy	58
Other Multiple Strategies	261

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	13
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#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	130
--------------	-----

#### Health (adults/families)

Nutrition Programs	309
--------------------	-----

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	20%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	49%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	63.6%

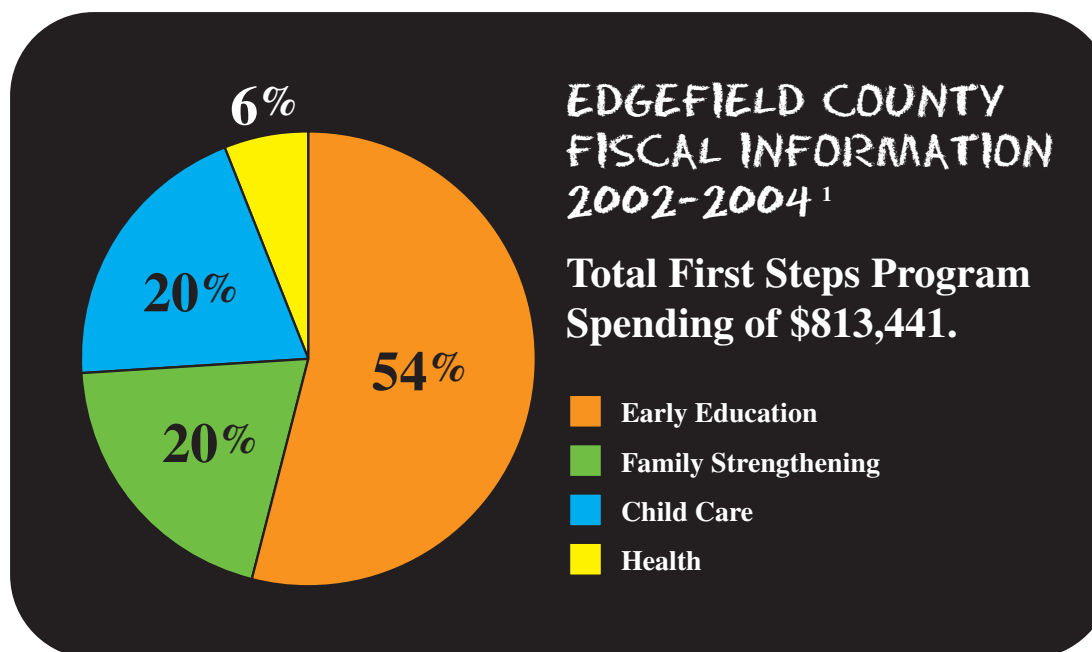
#### Birth Risk

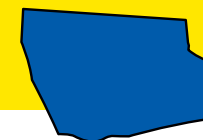
Total Number of Births	254
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	42.2%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	21.7%
Births to Mothers Under 18	5.9%
Low Birth Weight	9.9%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	32.3%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	56.8%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	49
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	19.7%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	12.9%





## Child Population Characteristics

### Number of Children

Under age 3	946
Under age 6	1,927

### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	29.5%
Black only, non-Hispanic	66.7%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.3%
Hispanic	1.4%

### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	1,474
Single Householder	43.8%
All parents in Labor Force	67.5%

## First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

### Early Education (children)

Early Education for Children Under 4	68
Other Early Education	60

### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	161
Other Multiple Strategies	701

### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	17
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### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	88
Staff Training & Development	329

### Health (adults/families)

Nutrition Programs	609
--------------------	-----

## At-Risk Children

### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	25%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	58.5%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	87.5%

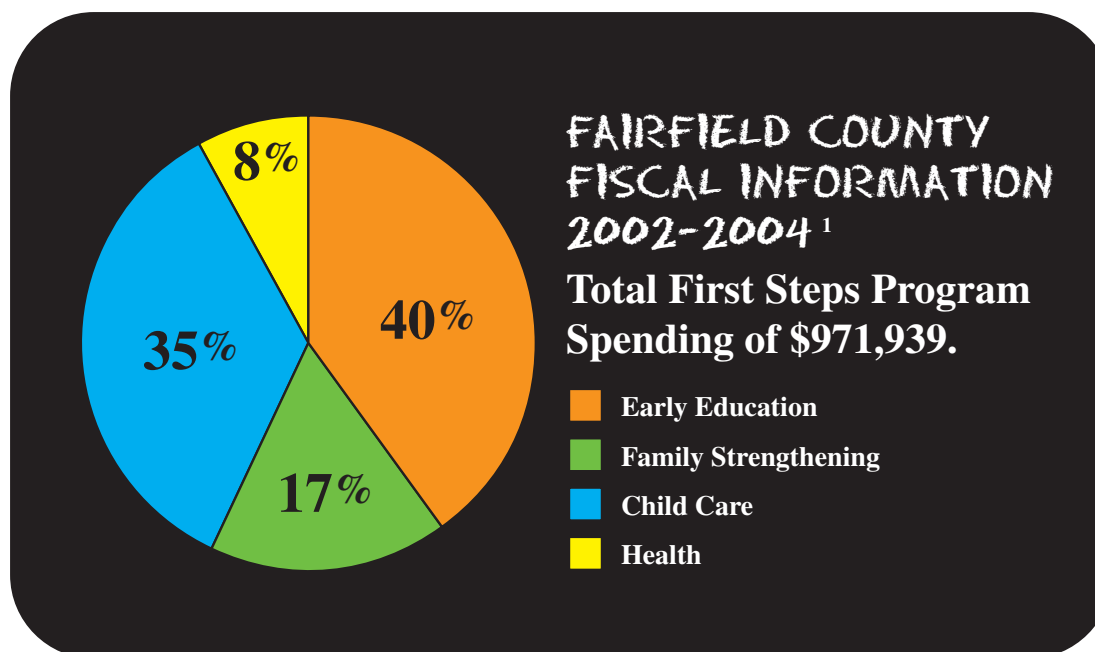
### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	304
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	57.1%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	21.4%
Births to Mothers Under 18	7.9%
Low Birth Weight	11.9%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	33.2%

## Education Statistics

### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	39.3%
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	8.6%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	19.9%



# FLORENCE COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	5,040
Under age 6	9,920

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	50.2%
Black only, non-Hispanic	45.5%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.6%
Hispanic	1.8%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	7,492
Single Householder	36%
All parents in Labor Force	60.9%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	140
Other Early Education	96
Summer Readiness	249

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parent-Child Home-Program	326
Other Multiple Strategies	2,326

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	53
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#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	252
--------------	-----

#### Health (adults/families)

Home-based Services	767
---------------------	-----

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	23%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	60.1%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	67.6%

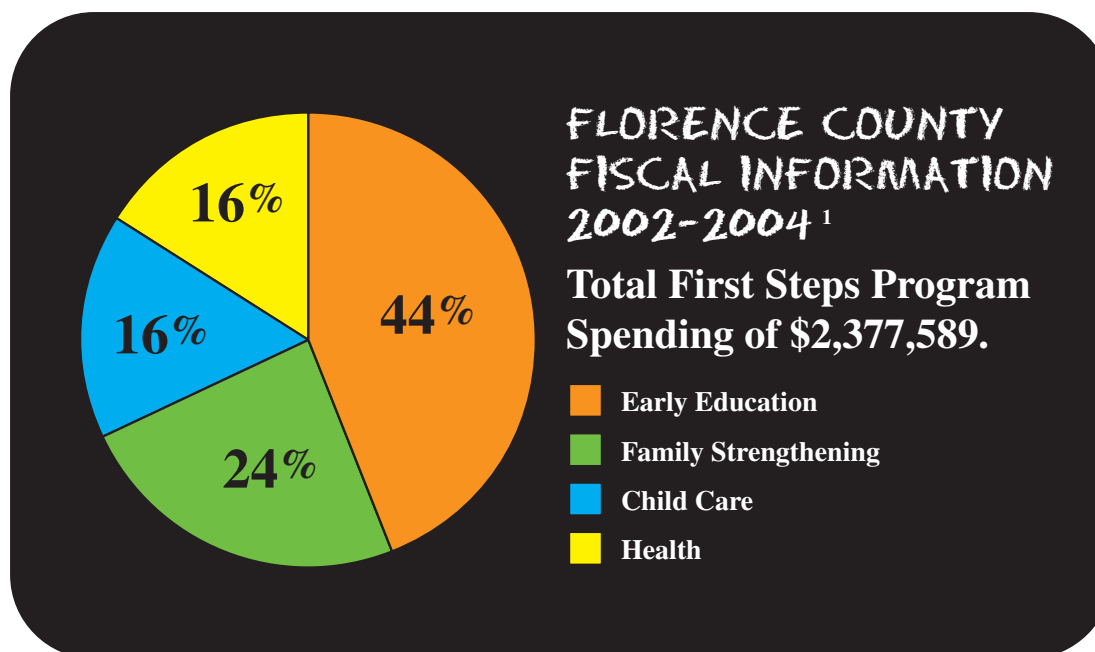
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	1,964
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	46.3%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	18.2%
Births to Mothers Under 18	5.4%
Low Birth Weight	11.5%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	27.2%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	35.6%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	277
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	20%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	14.2%



# GEORGETOWN COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	2,115
Under age 6	4,223

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	49.2%
Black only, non-Hispanic	46.7%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.5%
Hispanic	2.3%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	3,211
Single Householder	35.3%
All parents in Labor Force	69.1%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Extended 4-K from Partial to Full Day	120
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#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	161
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#### Family Strengthening (children)

Library-based Program	1,930
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	54
Staff Training & Development	23

#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	153
--------------	-----

#### Other (families/adults)

Any Program	48
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### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	26%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	62.6%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	68.6%

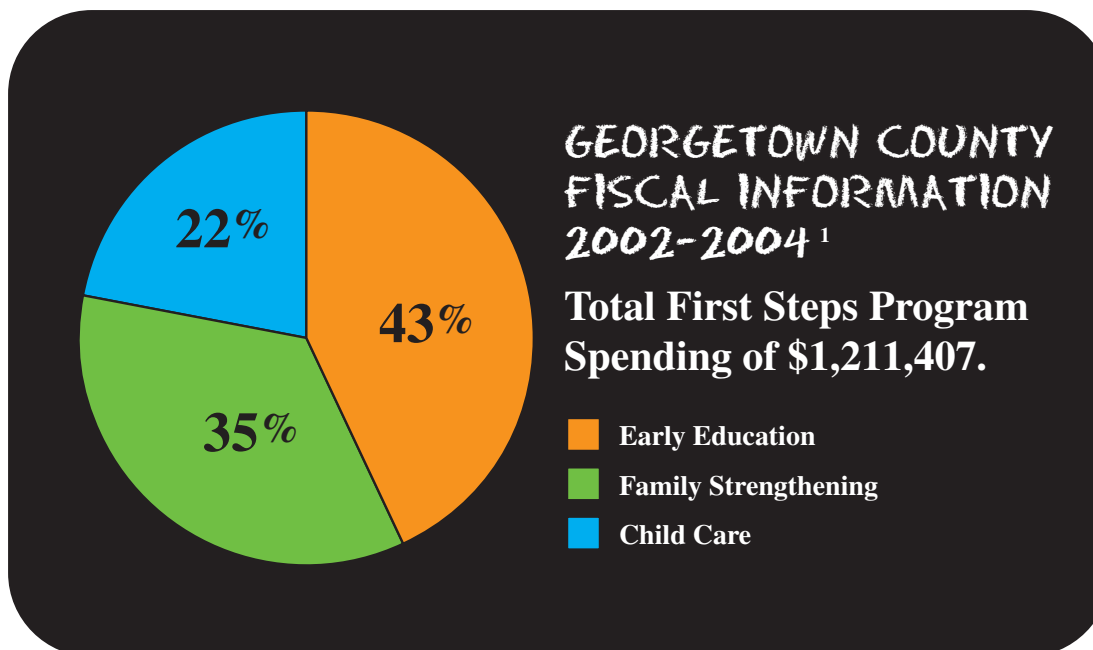
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	746
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	45.4%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	19.1%
Births to Mothers Under 18	4.2%
Low Birth Weight	12.3%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	25.5%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	50.9%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	66
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	14.2%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	8.7%





# GREENVILLE COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	15,445
Under age 6	30,787

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	69.1%
Black only, non-Hispanic	21.8%
Other, non-Hispanic	4%
Hispanic	5.1%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	23,117
Single Householder	27%
All parents in Labor Force	57.8%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	318
Other Early Education	117
Summer Readiness	771

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	1,552
Family Literacy	430

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	155
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#### Childcare (adults)

Staff Training & Development	217
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#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	230
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#### Other (families/adults)

Any Program	454
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### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

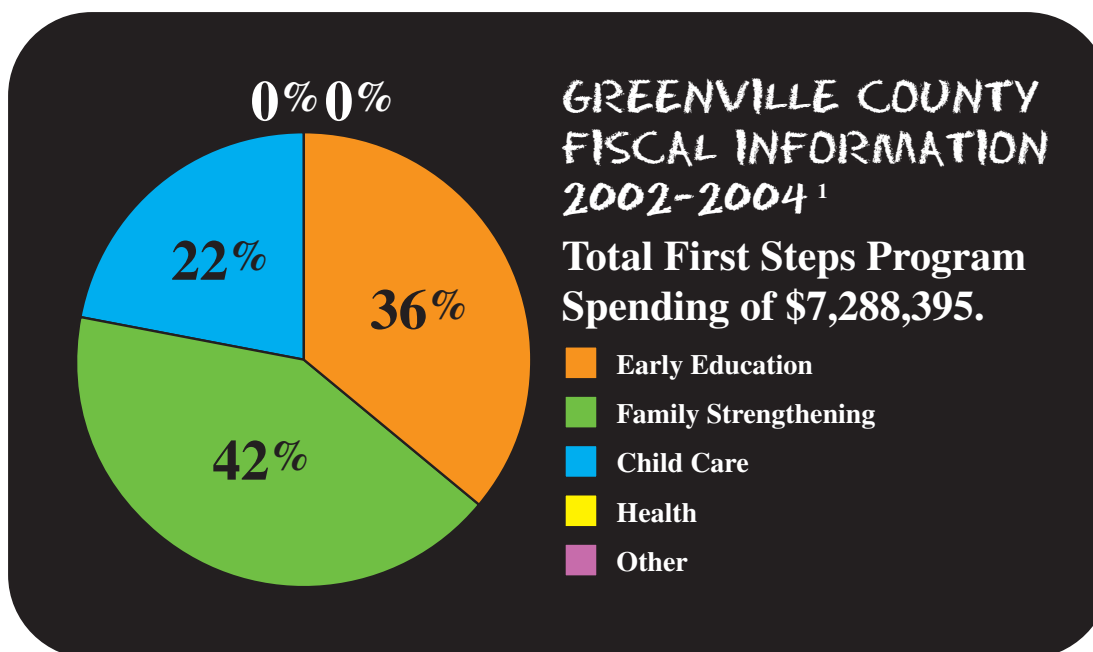
Children in Poverty	14%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	39.3%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	41.5%

#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	5,538
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	31%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	20.3%
Births to Mothers Under 18	3.5%
Low Birth Weight	8.5%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	34.7%

### Education Statistics

Children in Public 4-K as % of All 4-year-olds	27.3%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	300
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	13.7%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	12%



# GREENWOOD COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	2,775
Under age 6	5,551

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	54.9%
Black only, non-Hispanic	37.9%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.6%
Hispanic	4.7%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	4,094
Single Householder	37.3%
All parents in Labor Force	71.6%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	80
Summer Readiness	183

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	106
Parent Training	37
Other Multiple Strategies	155

#### Health (adults/families)

Home-based Services	50
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	10
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#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	117
Other Childcare	80

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	18%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	49.3%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	54.9%

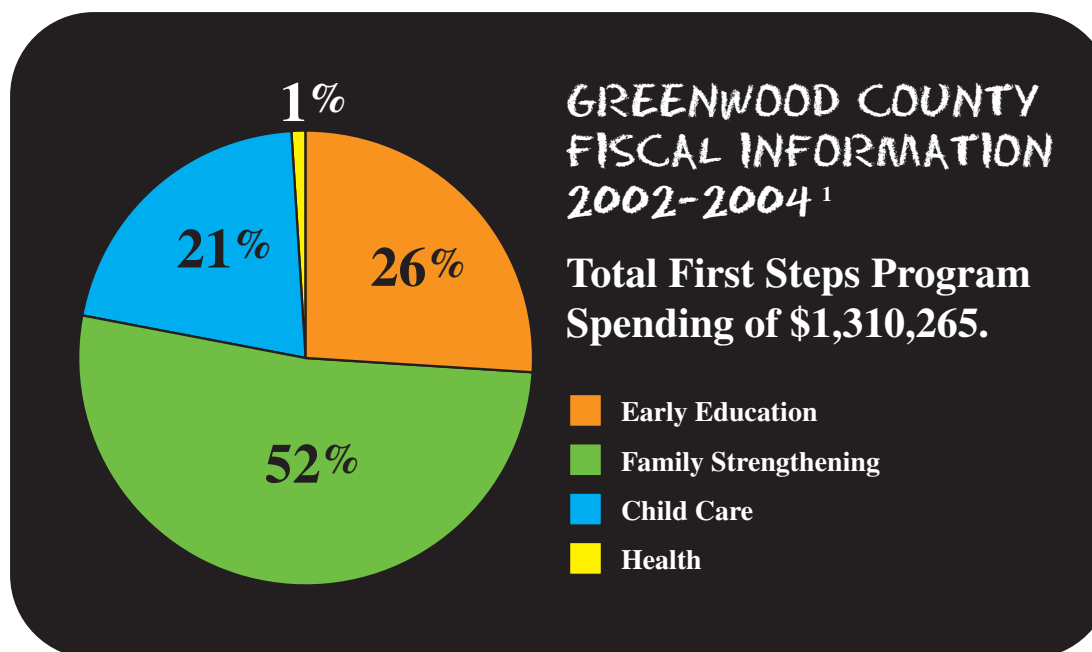
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	849
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	45.5%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	23.2%
Births to Mothers Under 18	6.6%
Low Birth Weight	9.3%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	31%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	44.8%
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	21.3%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	16.3%



# HAMPTON COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	862
Under age 6	1,715

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	34.8%
Black only, non-Hispanic	62.4%
Other, non-Hispanic	0.8%
Hispanic	2%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	1,248
Single Householder	40.9%
All parents in Labor Force	57.7%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	100
Summer Readiness	48

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	184
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#### Family Strengthening (children)

Imagination Library	150
Other Multiple Strategies	190

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	59
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#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	107
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#### Health (adults/families)

Non Home-Based Services	11
-------------------------	----

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	28%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	67.5%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	79.7%

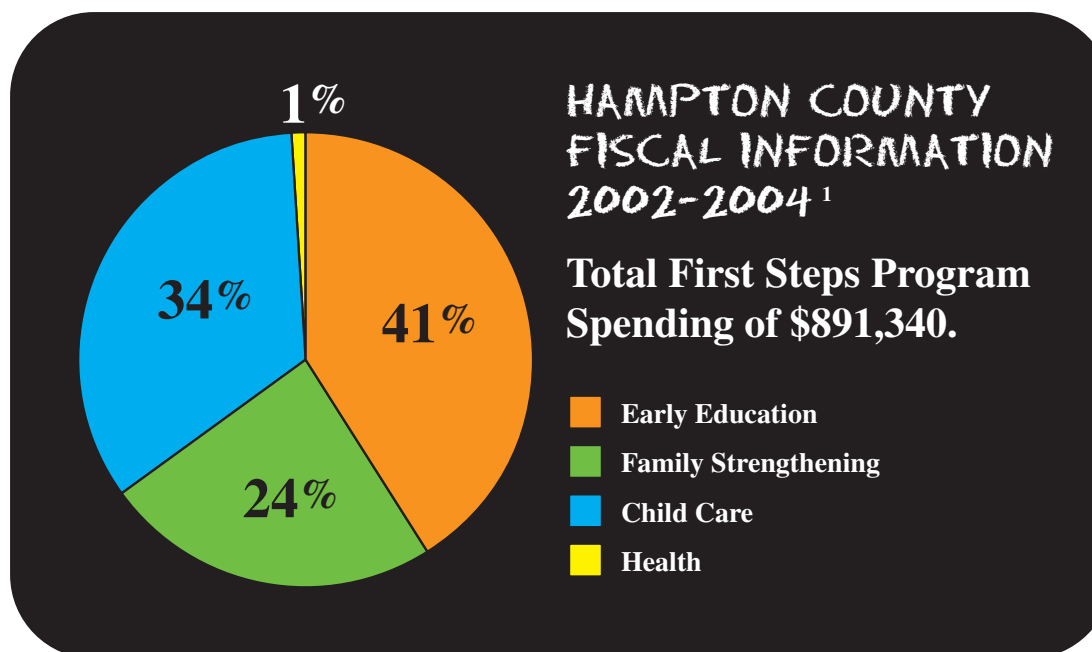
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	298
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	53.5%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	28.4%
Births to Mothers Under 18	6%
Low Birth Weight	8.5%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	31.2%

### Education Statistics

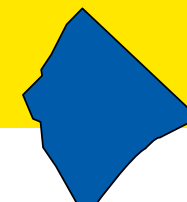
#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	73.6%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	40
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	11.4%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	14.6%



# HORRY COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	6,823
Under age 6	13,563

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	70.5%
Black only, non-Hispanic	21.8%
Other, non-Hispanic	4.3%
Hispanic	3.4%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	10,409
Single Householder	32.1%
All parents in Labor Force	62.9%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	136
Summer Readiness	93

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parent-Child Home-Program	255
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	86
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#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	215
Staff Training & Development	850

#### Health (adults/families)

Home-based Services	11
---------------------	----

#### Other (families/adults)

Any Program	1,541
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### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	18%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	60.8%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	62%

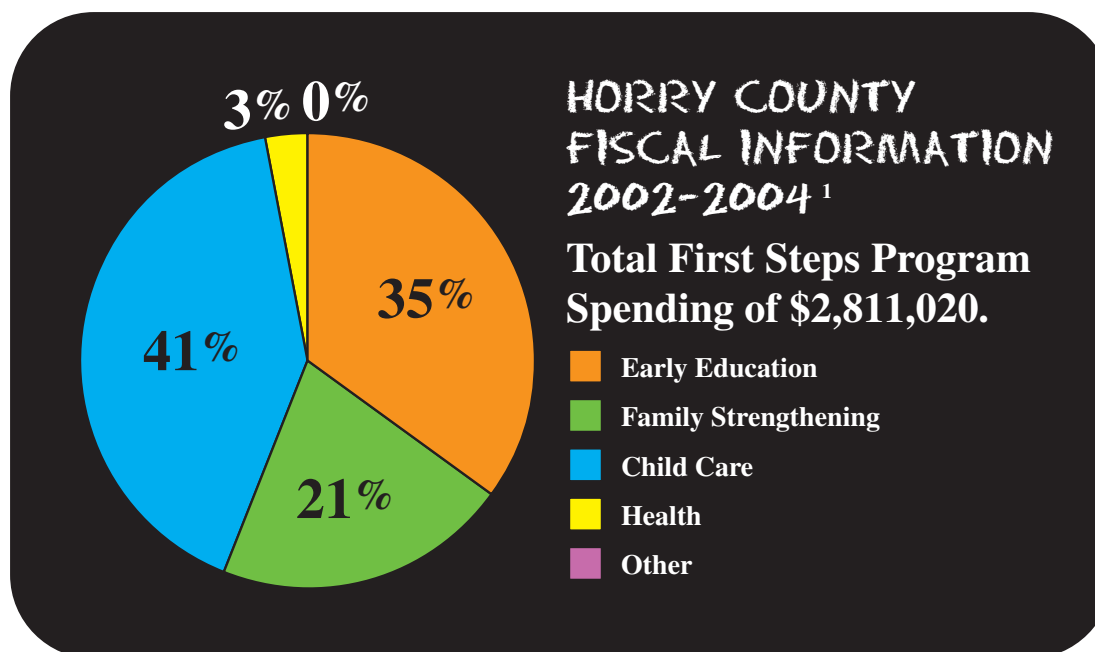
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	2,681
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	42.3%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	22.3%
Births to Mothers Under 18	3.6%
Low Birth Weight	8.8%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	29%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	24.4%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	432
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	8.2%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	3.3%



# JASPER COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	852
Under age 6	1,825

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	36.7%
Black only, non-Hispanic	52.7%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.6%
Hispanic	9%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	1,334
Single Householder	39.7%
All parents in Labor Force	57.1%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	217
Other Early Education	60

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	334
English as a Second Language	20

#### Family Strengthening (children)

Imagination Library	195
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#### Health (adults/families)

Home-based Services	40
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	9
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### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

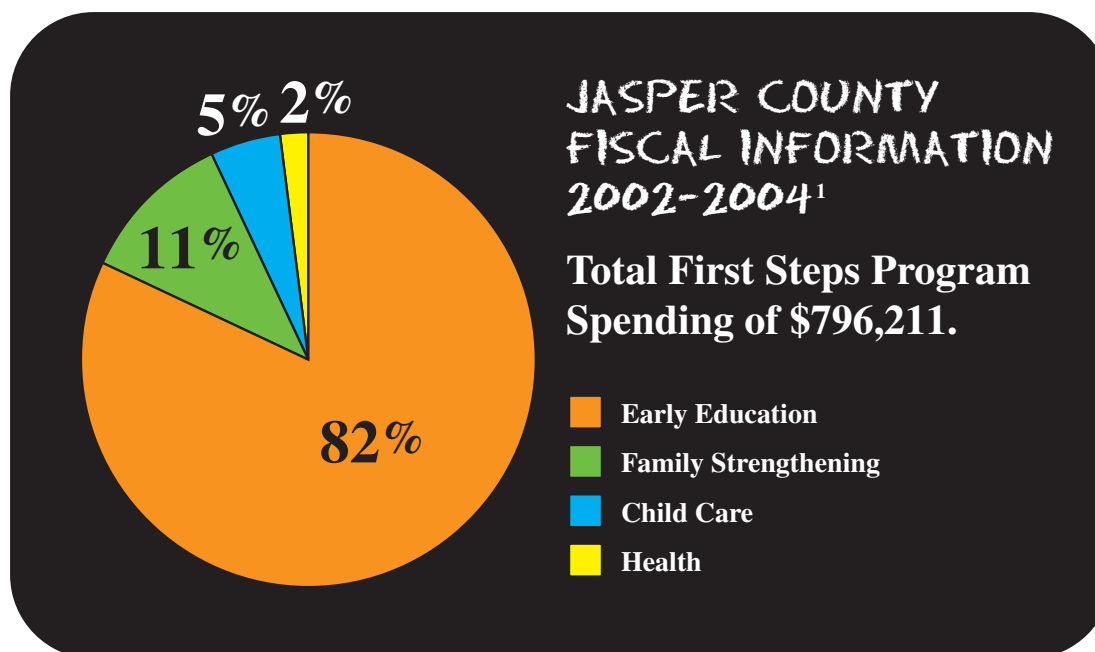
Children in Poverty	27%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	66.6%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	69.7%

#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	301
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	54.6%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	31.1%
Births to Mothers Under 18	9%
Low Birth Weight	9.7%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	52.2%

### Education Statistics

Children in Public 4-K as % of All 4-year-olds	45.4%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	17
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	17.3%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	41.4%





# KERSHAW COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	2,067
Under age 6	4,134

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	67.6%
Black only, non-Hispanic	27.4%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.5%
Hispanic	2.5%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	3,196
Single Householder	29.6%
All parents in Labor Force	68.9%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	32
Family Literacy	36
English as a Second Language	30
Other Multiple Strategies	61

#### Early Education (children)

Other Early Education	60
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	11
----------------------------	----

#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	74
Staff Training & Development	585

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	17%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	43.9%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	54.3%

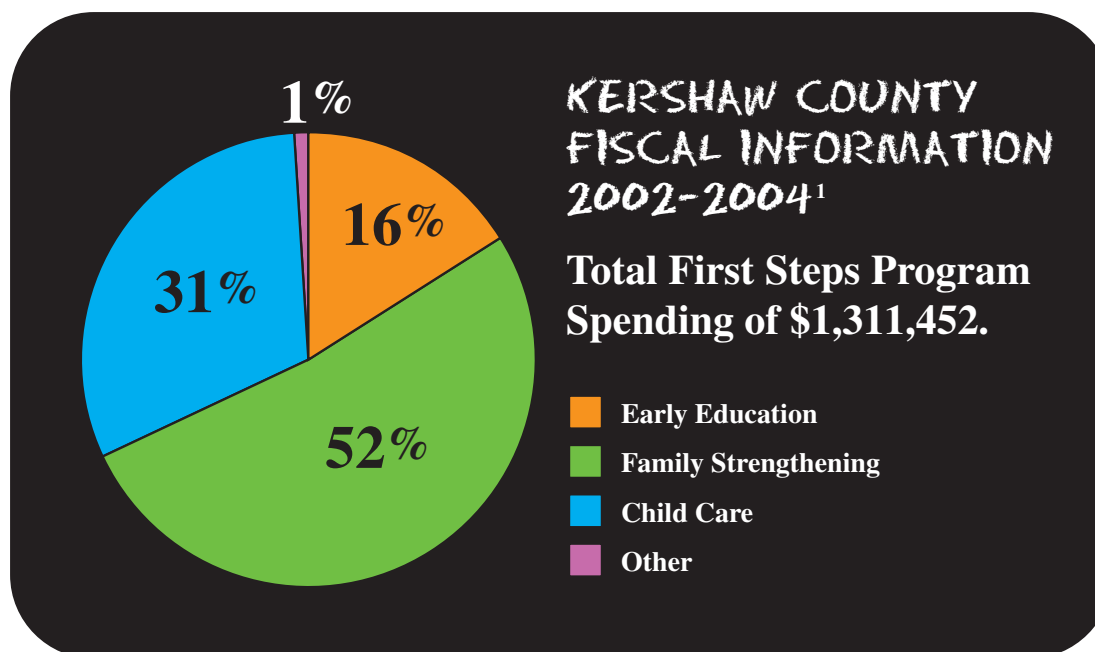
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	698
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	30.4%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	21.3%
Births to Mothers Under 18	4.6%
Low Birth Weight	9.6%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	29.2%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	38.3%
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	15.7%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	7.8%



# LANCASTER COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	2,457
Under age 6	4,876

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	65%
Black only, non-Hispanic	29.9%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.8%
Hispanic	2.3%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	3,706
Single Householder	36.8%
All parents in Labor Force	69.9%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Early Education for Children Under 4	70
Other Early Education	46
Summer Readiness	258

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parent-Child Home-Program	234
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#### Family Strengthening (children)

Library-based Program	11,551
Parent Training	1,338
Other Multiple Strategies	3,534

#### Health (children)

Public Health-Based Services	1,077
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	12
Staff Training & Development	44

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	17%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	50.4%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	54.9%

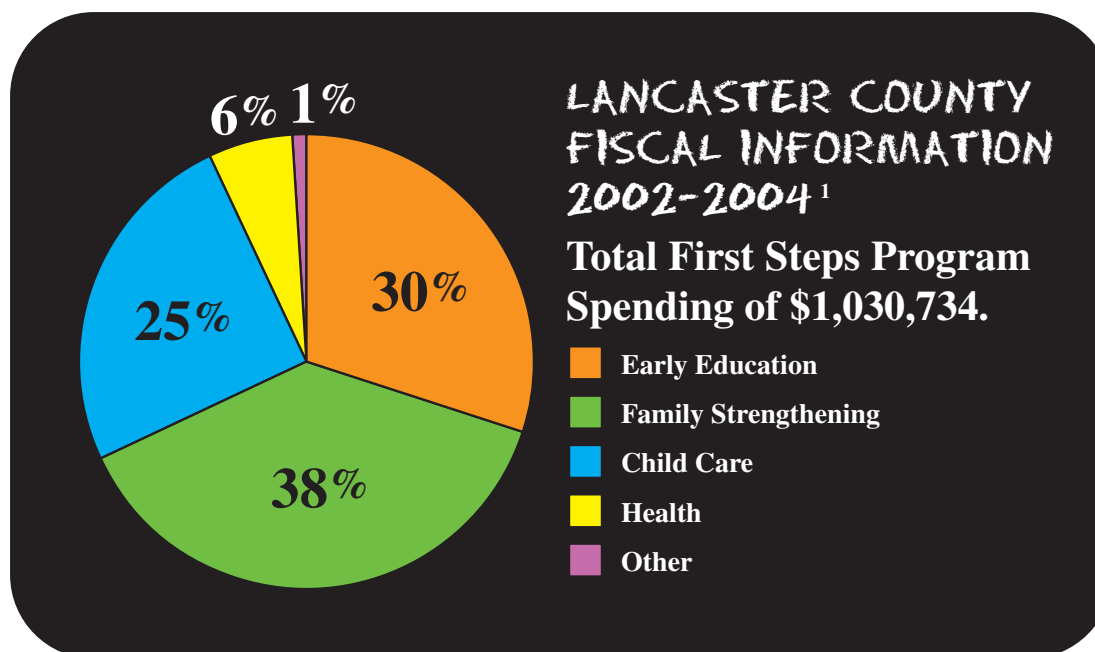
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	763
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	44%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	25.8%
Births to Mothers Under 18	4.6%
Low Birth Weight	10.9%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	16.4%

### Education Statistics

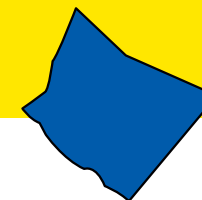
#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	26.5%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	110
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	11.2%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	17.7%



# LAURENS COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	2,763
Under age 6	5,486

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	65.9%
Black only, non-Hispanic	29.2%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.9%
Hispanic	3%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	4,153
Single Householder	36.5%
All parents in Labor Force	64.7%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	80
Other Early Education	397

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	217
Parent Training	125

#### Childcare (facilities)

Staff Training & Development	54
------------------------------	----

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	20%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	46.8%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	64.9%

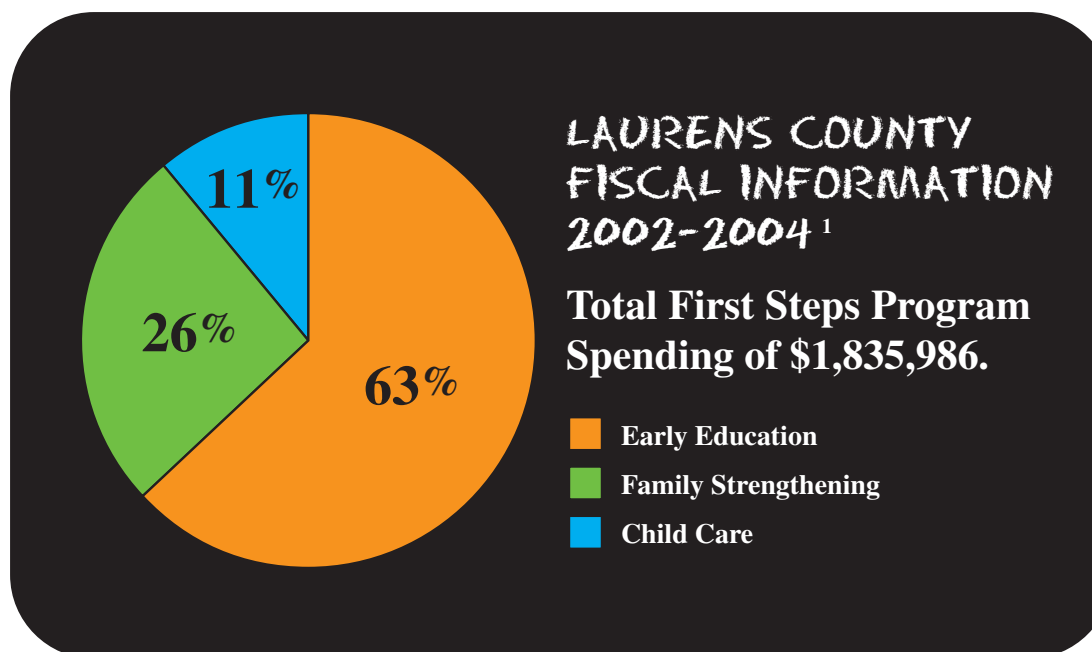
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	817
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	46.6%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	31.2%
Births to Mothers Under 18	6.7%
Low Birth Weight	9.8%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	26.3%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	55.4%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	65
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	24.7%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	19.5%





### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	814
Under age 6	1,543

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	25.2%
Black only, non-Hispanic	71.4%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.4%
Hispanic	1.9%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	1,155
Single Householder	48.8%
All parents in Labor Force	66%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	181
---------------------	-----

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	169
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#### Health (children)

Home-based Services	502
---------------------	-----

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	20
Staff Training & Development	103

#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	73
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#### Other (families/adults)

Any Program	12
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### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	26%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	78.5%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	93.7%

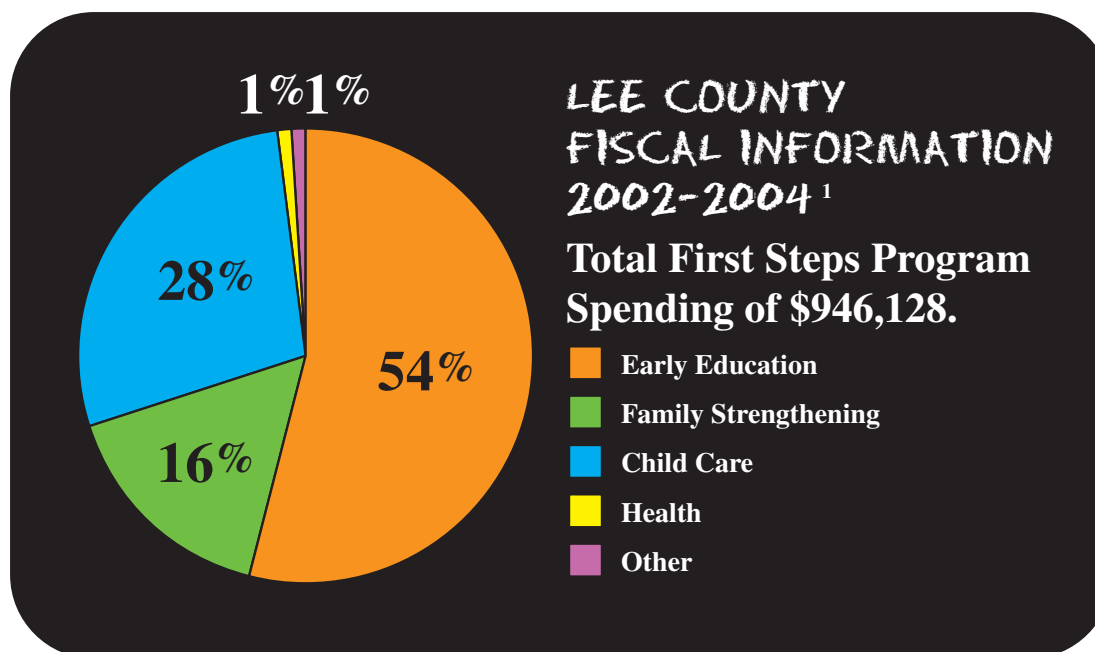
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	263
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	62.5%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	25.5%
Births to Mothers Under 18	6.8%
Low Birth Weight	11.3%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	31.6%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	49.6%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	62
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	8.1%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	21.4%



# LEXINGTON COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	8,856
Under age 6	17,831

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	75.8%
Black only, non-Hispanic	17.4%
Other, non-Hispanic	3.8%
Hispanic	2.9%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	13,434
Single Householder	25.4%
All parents in Labor Force	61.4%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	1,786
Parent-Child Home-Program	46
Parent Training	1,869

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	15
Other Early Education	15
Summer Readiness	33

#### Health (adults/families)

Home-based Services	91
---------------------	----

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	112
----------------------------	-----

#### Childcare (children)

Staff Training & Development	11,612
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### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	11%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	38.2%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	38.7%

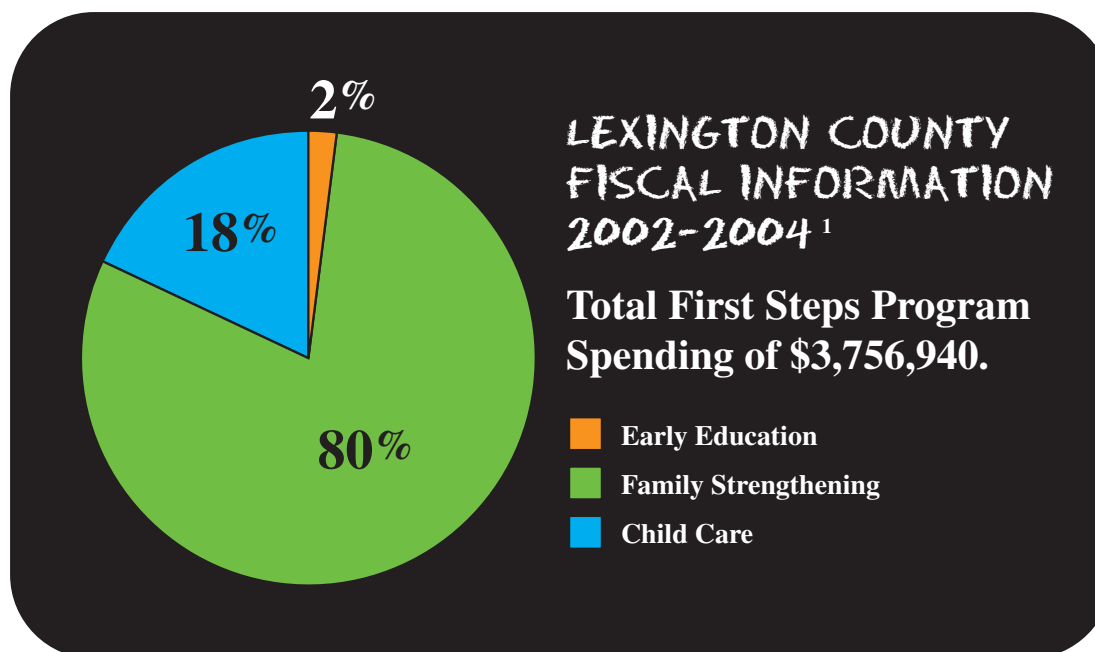
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	3,168
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	29.2%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	15.8%
Births to Mothers Under 18	3.3%
Low Birth Weight	7.8%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	26.9%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	38.4%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	125
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	6.6%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	12.8%





# MARION COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	1,463
Under age 6	3,002

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	31.1%
Black only, non-Hispanic	65%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.9%
Hispanic	2%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	2,233
Single Householder	47.8%
All parents in Labor Force	65.5%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Half Day 4-K	80
Full Day 4-K	89

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	80
Parent-Child Home-Program	125
Other Multiple Strategies	158

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	35
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#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	21
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### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	34%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	76%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	80.8%

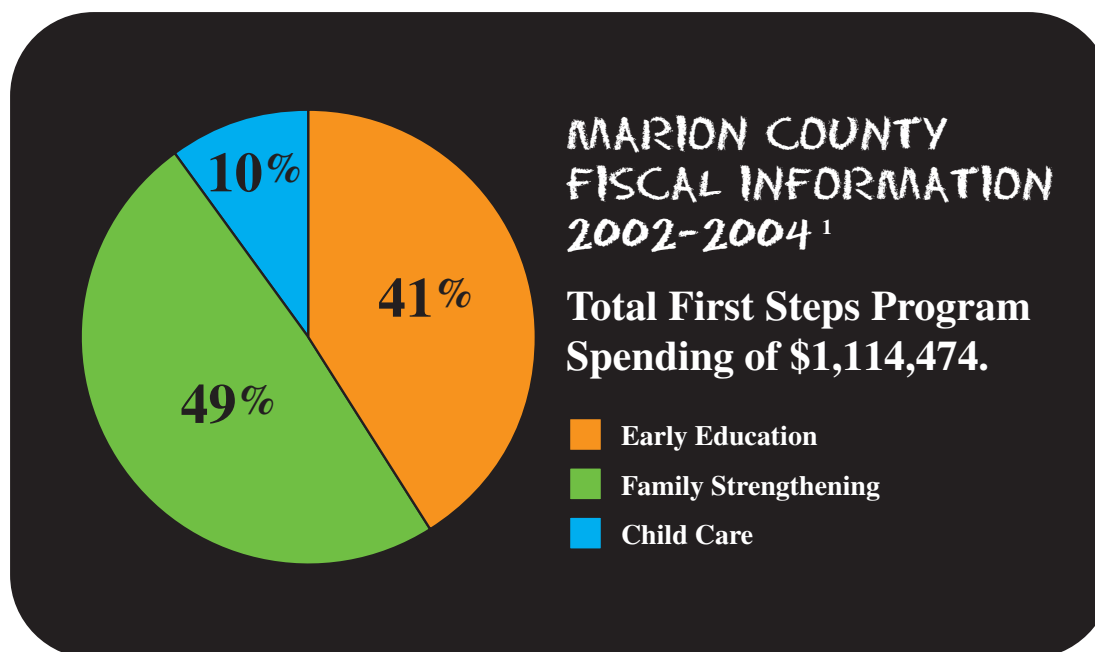
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	485
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	58.9%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	23.8%
Births to Mothers Under 18	7.2%
Low Birth Weight	12.7%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	16.9%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	56.7%
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	20.1%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	19.7%





### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	1,200
Under age 6	2,311

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	38.3%
Black only, non-Hispanic	54.5%
Other, non-Hispanic	6.2%
Hispanic	1%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	1,732
Single Householder	49.4%
All parents in Labor Force	66.4%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	46
Parent Training	58

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	60
Other Early Education	180
Summer Readiness	111

#### Health (adults/families)

Home-based Services	6
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	26
----------------------------	----

#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	57
Staff Training & Development	244

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	29%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	77.9%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	85%

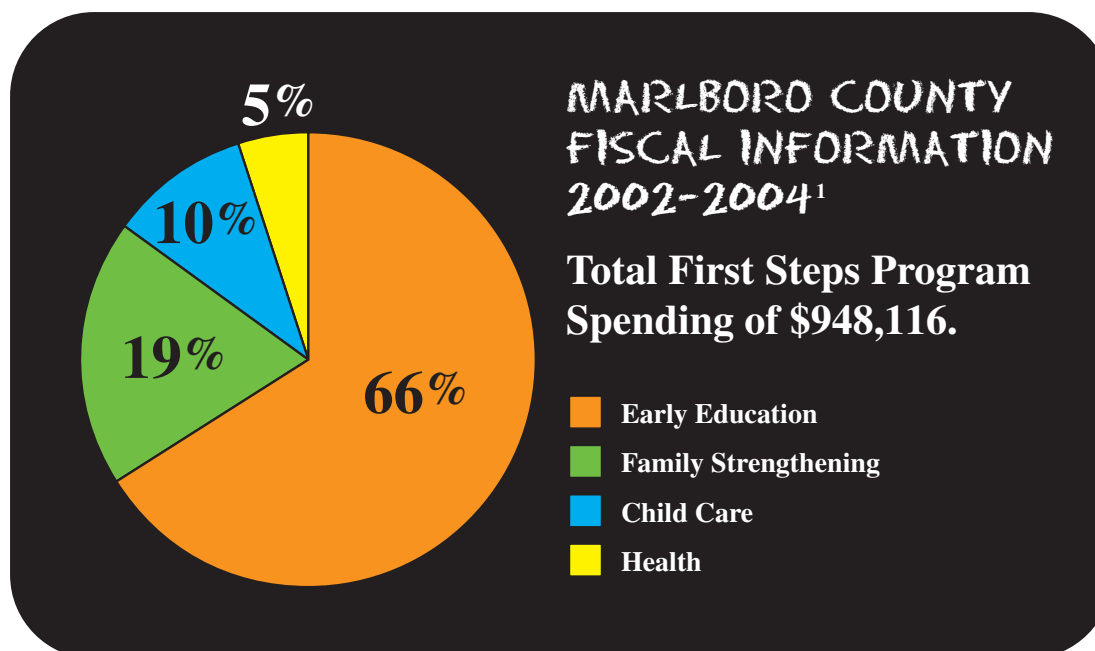
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	338
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	62.9%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	31.1%
Births to Mothers Under 18	7.1%
Low Birth Weight	14%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	27.5%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	43.9%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	10
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	7%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	9.5%





### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	252
Under age 6	498

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	25.9%
Black only, non-Hispanic	69.7%
Other, non-Hispanic	3.2%
Hispanic	1.2%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	377
Single Householder	44.6%
All parents in Labor Force	72.5%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Early Education for Children Under 4	65
Summer Readiness	18

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	187
Parent Training	16

#### Family Strengthening (children)

Library-based Program	333
-----------------------	-----

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	27%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	71.5%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	80.8%

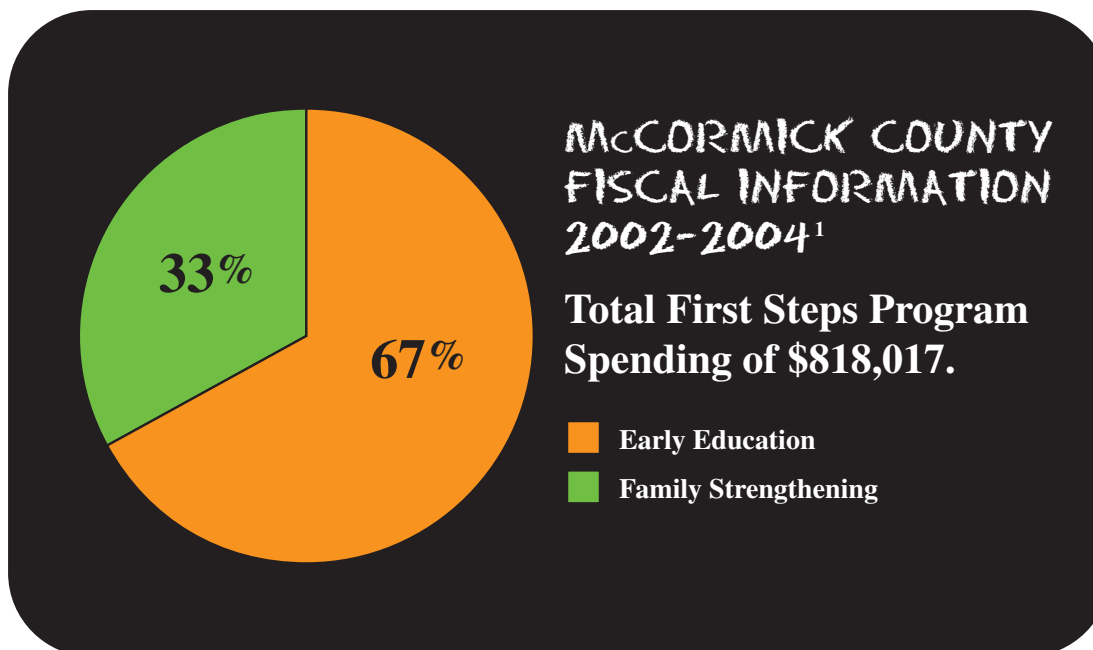
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	78
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	58.6%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	19%
Births to Mothers Under 18	10.3%
Low Birth Weight	11.9%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	26.9%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	51.7%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	16
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	17.3%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	13.6%



# NEWBERRY COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	1,404
Under age 6	2,785

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	50.1%
Black only, non-Hispanic	40%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.5%
Hispanic	7.3%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	2,100
Single Householder	40.3%
All parents in Labor Force	68.5%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	280
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#### Family Strengthening (children)

Library-based Program	1,160
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#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	120
Summer Readiness	65

#### Health (adults/families)

Nutrition Programs	126
--------------------	-----

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	39
----------------------------	----

#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	33
Staff Training & Development	125

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	24%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	57.6%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	83.2%

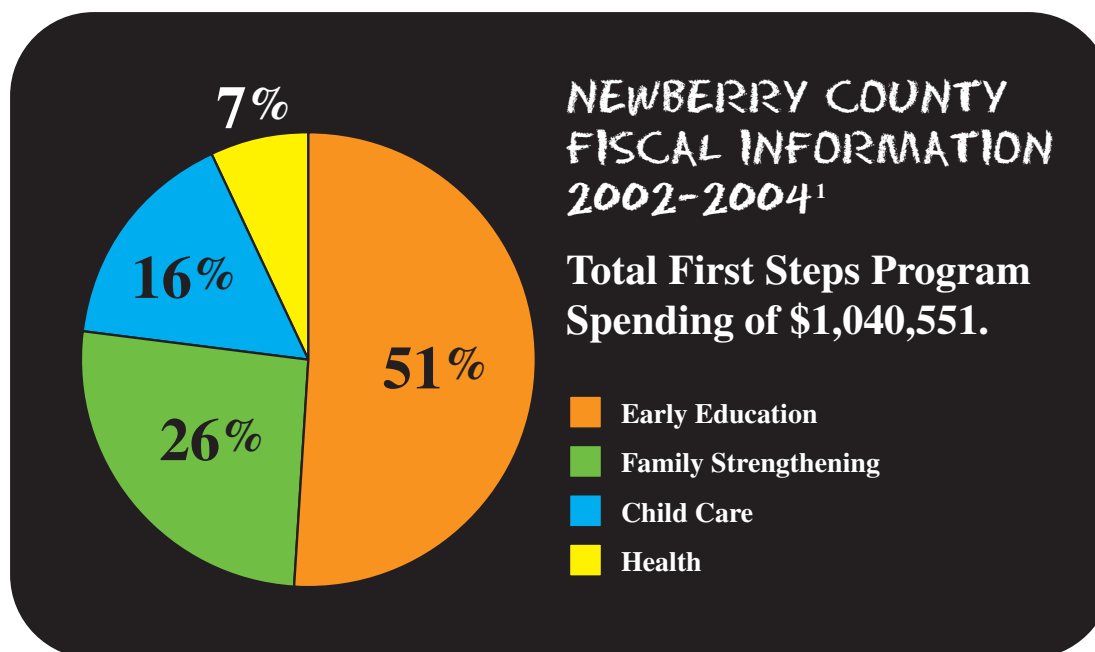
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	461
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	47.6%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	29.4%
Births to Mothers Under 18	4.8%
Low Birth Weight	10.7%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	25.4%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	40.3%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	56
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	15.2%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	10.1%



# OCONEE COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	2,339
Under age 6	4,801

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	81.1%
Black only, non-Hispanic	11.3%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.9%
Hispanic	4.7%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	3,634
Single Householder	28.1%
All parents in Labor Force	63.1%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	140
Summer Readiness	11

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	199
English as a Second Language	10
Other Multiple Strategies	39

#### Childcare (facilities)

Staff Training & Development	65
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#### Health (adults/families)

Public Health-Based Services	15
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#### Other (families/adults)

Any Program	45
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### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	15%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	46.8%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	54.1%

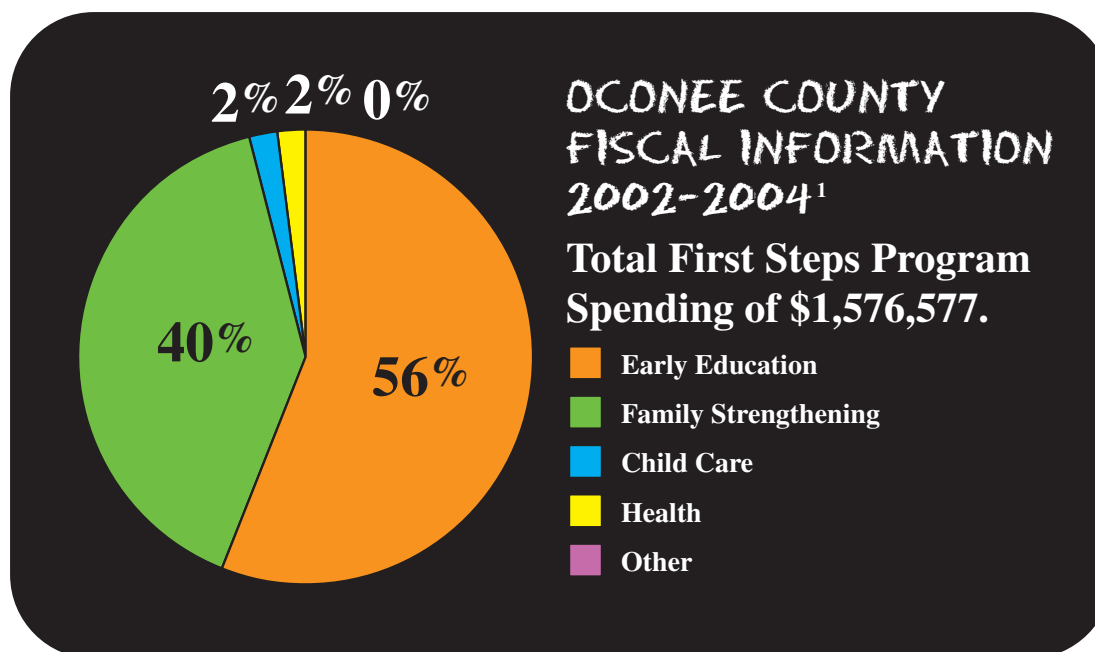
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	801
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	30.9%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	25.3%
Births to Mothers Under 18	4.7%
Low Birth Weight	7.8%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	33%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	38.3%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	94
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	14.1%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	17.4%





# ORANGEBURG COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	3,596
Under age 6	7,147

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	30%
Black only, non-Hispanic	66.1%
Other, non-Hispanic	2.4%
Hispanic	1.4%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	5,417
Single Householder	45.4%
All parents in Labor Force	62.5%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	116
Other Early Education	80

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	584
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	73
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#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	139
Staff Training & Development	174

#### Health (adults/families)

Non Home-Based Services	79
Home-based Services	189

#### Other (families/adults)

Any Program	157
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### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	28%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	68.6%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	80.2%

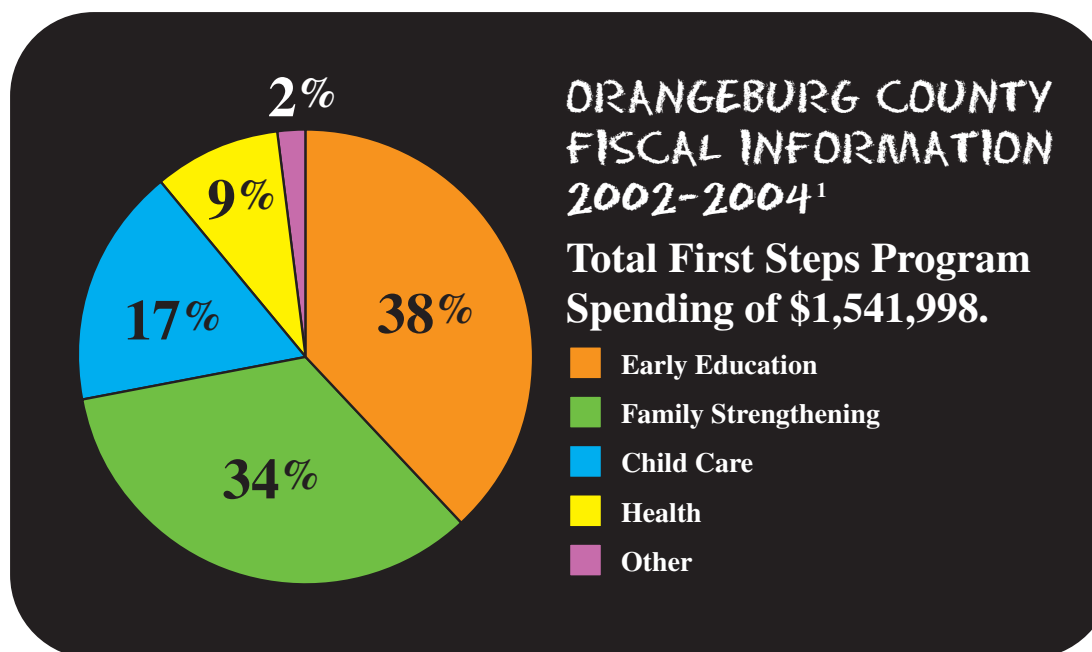
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	1,259
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	55%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	20.9%
Births to Mothers Under 18	4.8%
Low Birth Weight	13.3%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	36.8%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	49.1%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	63
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	13.1%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	13.3%



# PICKENS COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	4,054
Under age 6	8,024

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	86.1%
Black only, non-Hispanic	7.5%
Other, non-Hispanic	3.4%
Hispanic	3%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	6,094
Single Householder	22.4%
All parents in Labor Force	62.1%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	94
Summer Readiness	512

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	215
Family Literacy	30

#### Family Strengthening (children)

Other Multiple Strategies	1,109
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	4
Staff Training & Development	35

#### Health (adults/families)

Non Home-Based Services	18
-------------------------	----

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	13%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	36%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	45.5%

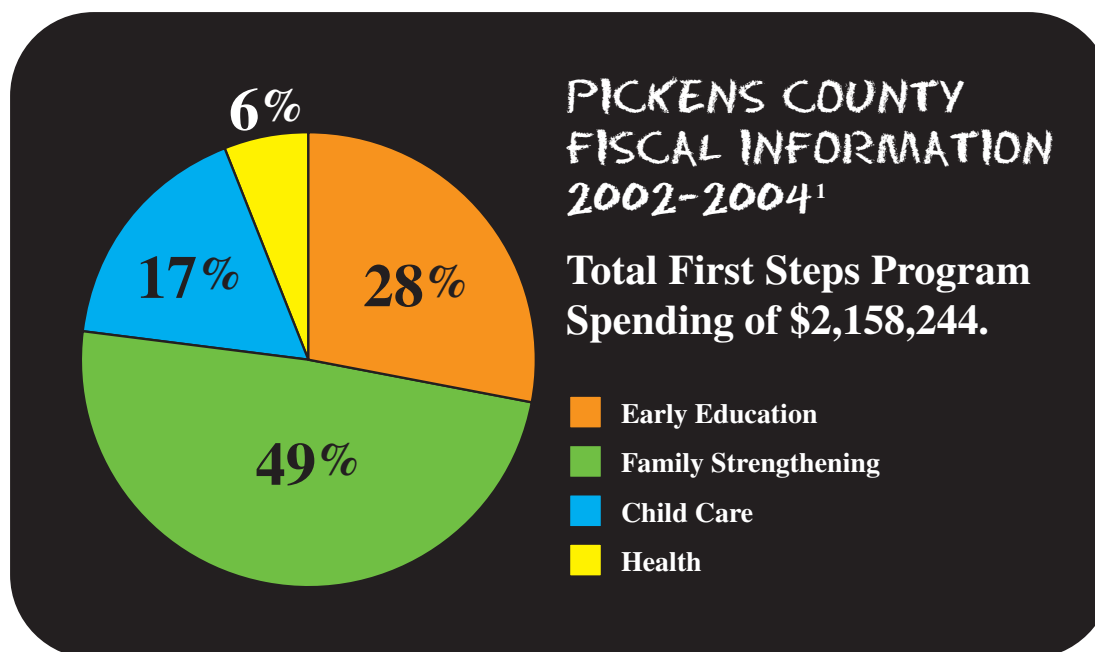
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	1,260
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	25.9%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	23.7%
Births to Mothers Under 18	4.8%
Low Birth Weight	7.5%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	26%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	27.4%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	5
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	11.9%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	11.6%





### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	12,190
Under age 6	24,424

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	39.3%
Black only, non-Hispanic	52.8%
Other, non-Hispanic	4.4%
Hispanic	3.4%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	18,426
Single Householder	36.5%
All parents in Labor Force	66.3%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	18
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#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	199
Parent Training	69

#### Family Strengthening (children)

Library-based Program	5,131
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	141
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#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	114
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#### Health (children)

Public Health-Based Services	562
Nutrition Programs	1,789

#### Other (families/adults)

Any Program	2,281
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### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	18%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	46%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	59.8%

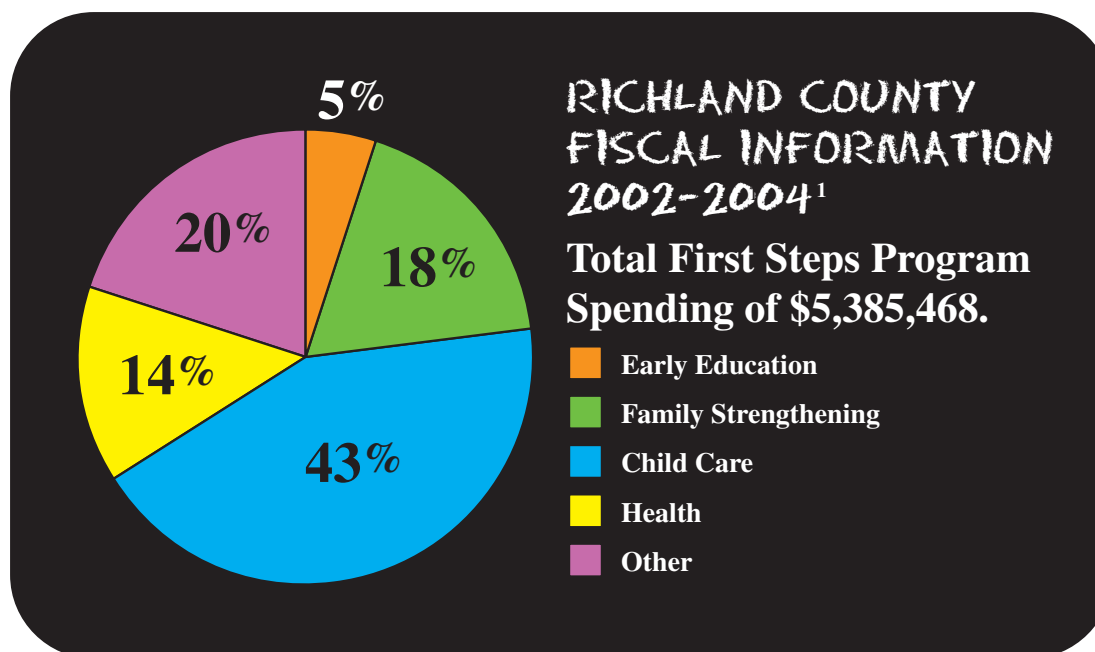
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	4,430
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	40.3%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	12.7%
Births to Mothers Under 18	3.9%
Low Birth Weight	10.6%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	27.8%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	29.5%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	363
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	10.8%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	17.8%





### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	753
Under age 6	1,484

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	52.8%
Black only, non-Hispanic	34.8%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.1%
Hispanic	11.3%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	1,093
Single Householder	33.3%
All parents in Labor Force	61.8%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Other Early Education	220
Summer Readiness	35

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	56
Other Multiple Strategies	31

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	20
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#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	6
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#### Health (adults/families)

Home-based Services	63
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#### Other (children)

Any Program	30
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### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	22%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	56.4%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	67%

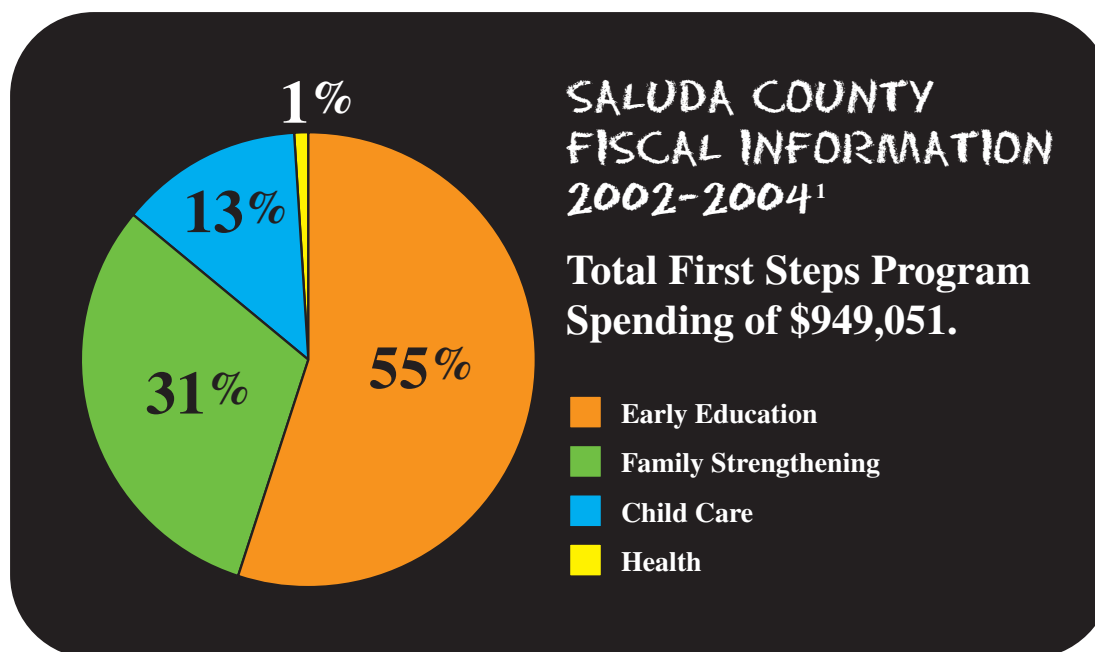
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	213
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	47.2%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	31.5%
Births to Mothers Under 18	3.8%
Low Birth Weight	9.1%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	43.2%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	39.2%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	96
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	6.7%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	21.4%





### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	9,918
Under age 6	20,108

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	67.1%
Black only, non-Hispanic	23.8%
Other, non-Hispanic	4.7%
Hispanic	4.5%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	15,173
Single Householder	30.3%
All parents in Labor Force	63.3%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Half Day 4-K	257
Full Day 4-K	5,829
Other Early Education	171
Summer Readiness	247

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	901
Family Literacy	313

#### Family Strengthening (children)

Other Multiple Strategies	560
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#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	33
Staff Training & Development	112

#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	15
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#### Health (adults/families)

Home-based Services	158
---------------------	-----

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	16%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	43.3%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	50.8%

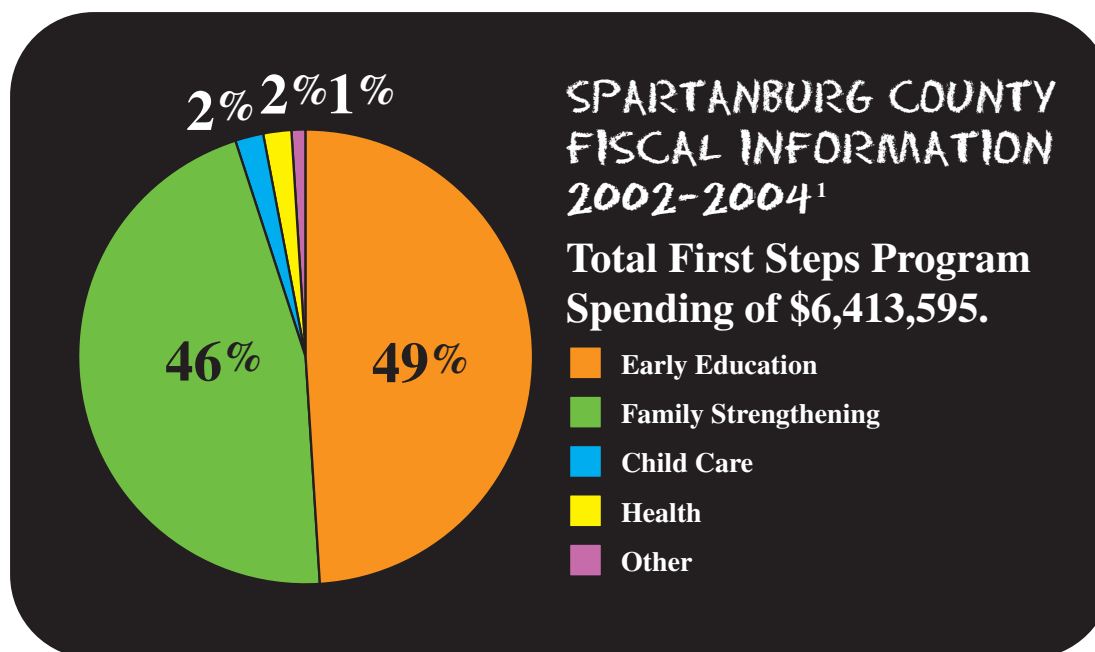
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	3,414
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	30.3%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	25.1%
Births to Mothers Under 18	5.6%
Low Birth Weight	9.9%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	31.3%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	29.6%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	79
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	7.5%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	13.3%





# SUMTER COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	4,741
Under age 6	9,370

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	44.3%
Black only, non-Hispanic	49.9%
Other, non-Hispanic	3.3%
Hispanic	3.3%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	6,848
Single Householder	36.3%
All parents in Labor Force	63.5%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	640
Other Multiple Strategies	330

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	72
----------------------------	----

#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	227
--------------	-----

#### Health (adults/families)

Home-based Services	146
---------------------	-----

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	22%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	55.9%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	70.3%

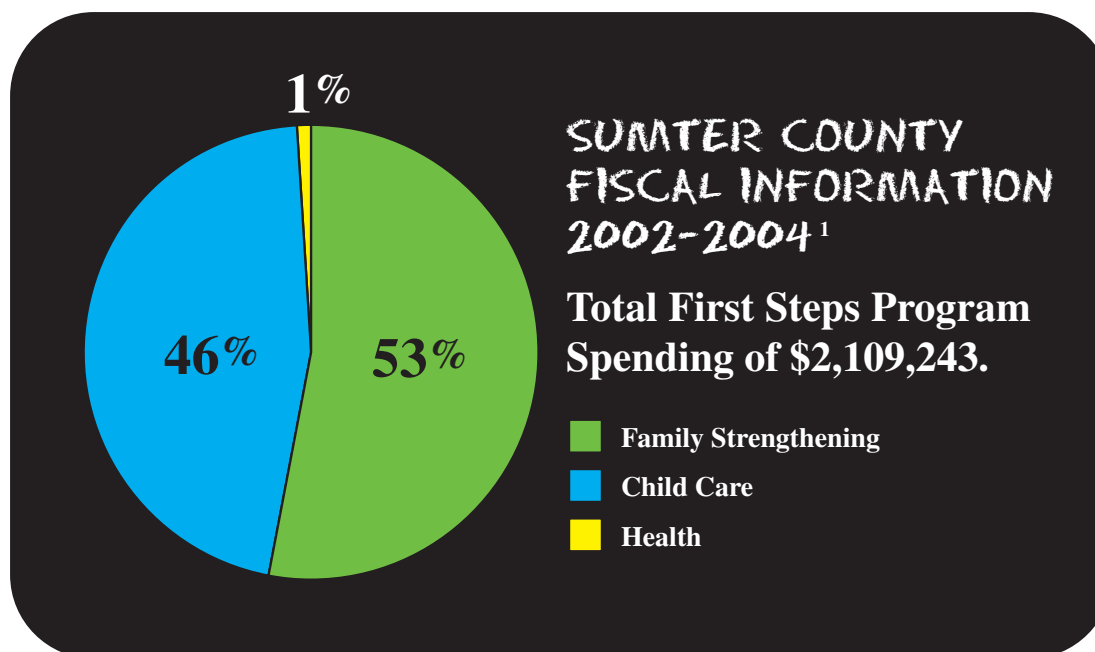
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	1,652
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	46.2%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	18.8%
Births to Mothers Under 18	5.2%
Low Birth Weight	9.5%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	38.9%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	34.9%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	56
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	18.6%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	15.8%



# UNION COUNTY

## Profile of the County's Children



### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	1,104
Under age 6	2,269

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	59.3%
Black only, non-Hispanic	38.5%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.5%
Hispanic	0.7%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	1,764
Single Householder	41.3%
All parents in Labor Force	68.2%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Half Day 4-K	40
Other Early Education	200
Summer Readiness	30

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	137
Family Literacy	120

#### Family Strengthening (children)

Library-based Program	1,643
-----------------------	-------

#### Childcare (facilities)

Staff Training & Development	40
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#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	112
--------------	-----

#### Health (adults/families)

Home-based Services	42
---------------------	----

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	19%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	54.2%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	65.1%

#### Birth Risk

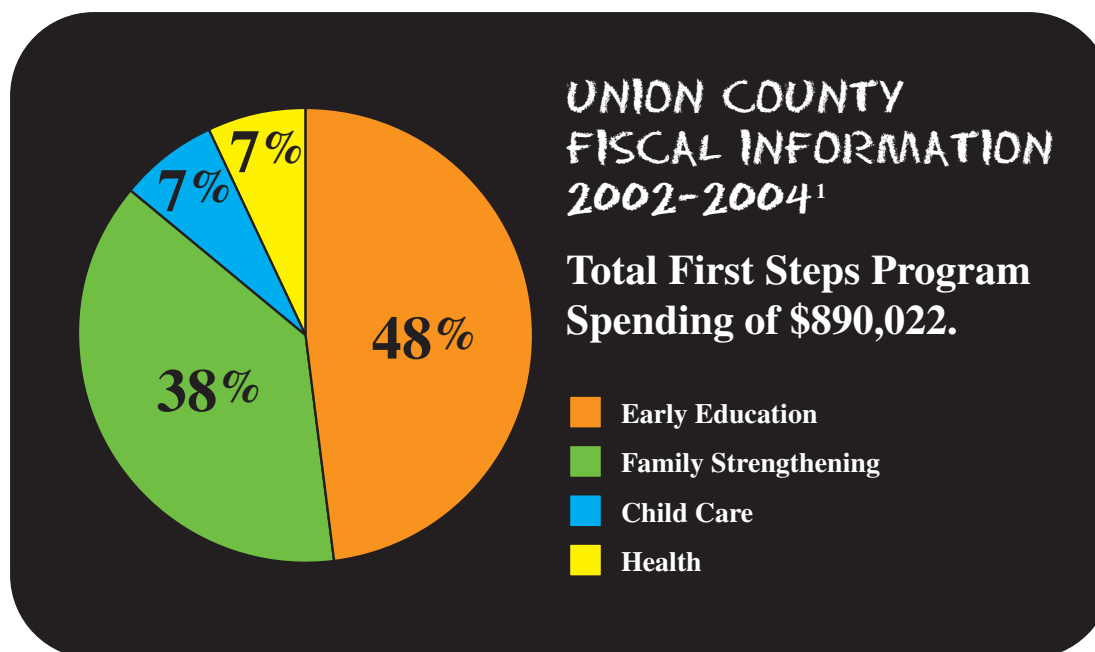
Total Number of Births	312
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	45.9%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	24.4%
Births to Mothers Under 18	8.3%
Low Birth Weight	12.1%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	25.3%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	52.7%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	13
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	17.3%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	4.8%

**38** SC COUNTY RANK BY U.S. PROBLEM RATIOS (see page 41)





### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	1,572
Under age 6	3,077

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	26.2%
Black only, non-Hispanic	71.8%
Other, non-Hispanic	1.1%
Hispanic	0.9%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	2,284
Single Householder	43.4%
All parents in Labor Force	60.6%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	74
Other Early Education	80

#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parent-Child Home-Program	122
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#### Family Strengthening (children)

Other Multiple Strategies	22
---------------------------	----

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	55
----------------------------	----

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	36%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	72.7%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	93.6%

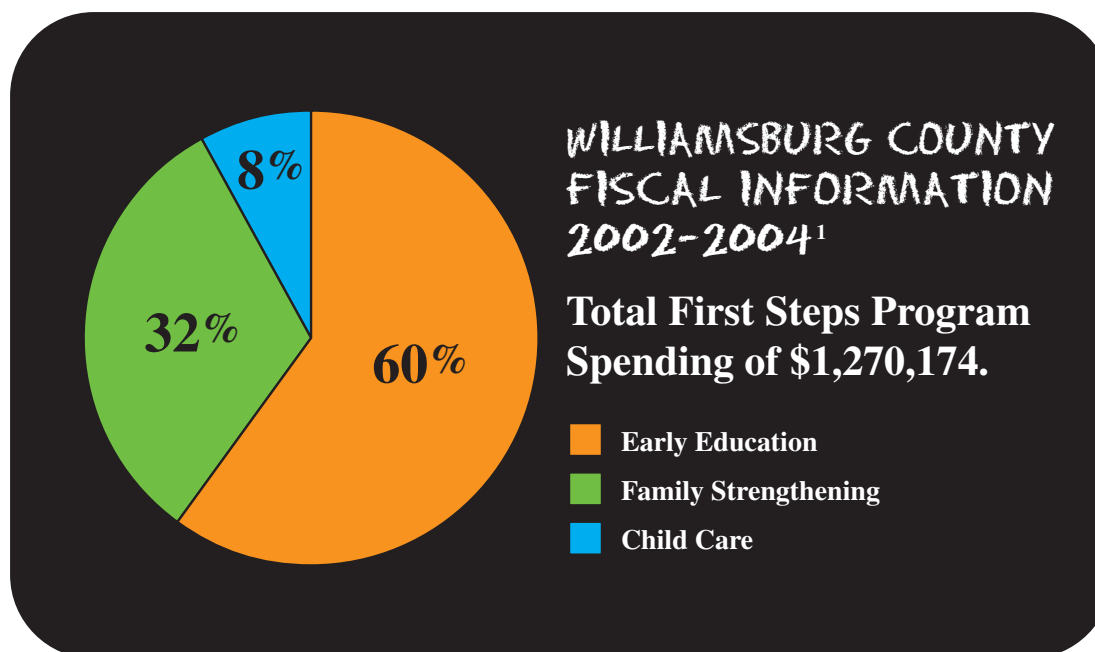
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	453
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	56.6%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	19.9%
Births to Mothers Under 18	4.6%
Low Birth Weight	14.6%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	34.2%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	21.7%
Number of Children on the Waiting List for 4-K	95
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	26.4%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	15.8%





### Child Population Characteristics

#### Number of Children

Under age 3	6,596
Under age 6	13,452

#### Race and Ethnicity of Children < Age 6

White only, non-Hispanic	71%
Black only, non-Hispanic	21.6%
Other, non-Hispanic	4.6%
Hispanic	2.8%

#### Families with Children < Age 6

Total Number of Families	10,208
Single Householder	27.3%
All parents in Labor Force	64.4%

### First Steps Strategies from 2002-2004

#### Early Education (children)

Full Day 4-K	114
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#### Family Strengthening (adults/families)

Parents as Teachers	192
Other Multiple Strategies	19

#### Childcare (children)

Scholarships	408
Staff Training and Development	1,029

#### Childcare (facilities)

Quality Enhancement Grants	72
Salary Enhancement	29

#### Childcare (adults)

Substitute Payments	6
---------------------	---

#### Health (adults/families)

Non Home-Based Services	600
Other	2,409

### At-Risk Children

#### Poverty & Medicaid

Children in Poverty	12%
Children < Age 6 Served by Medicaid	33.1%
Number of Children in 5-K with a Free or Reduced Lunch	39.3%

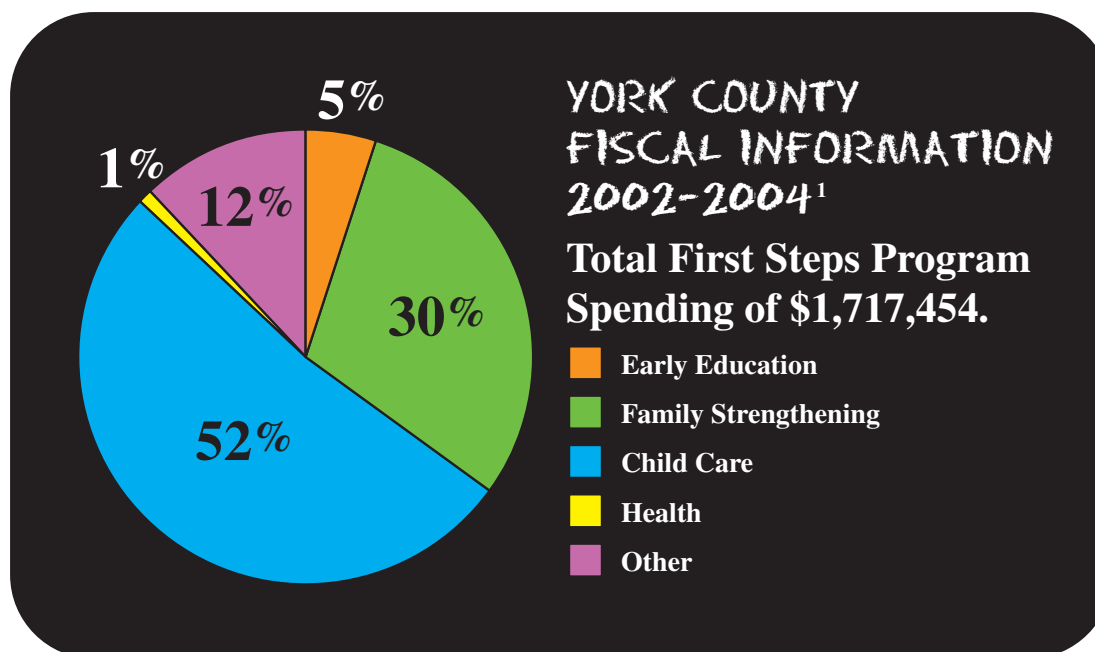
#### Birth Risk

Total Number of Births	2,378
Percent of Total Births to Unmarried Women	35.5%
Births to mothers who lack high school diplomas	20.2%
Births to Mothers Under 18	3.9%
Low Birth Weight	8.4%
Less than Adequate Prenatal Care	33.8%

### Education Statistics

#### Children in Public 4-K as % of

All 4-year-olds	35.5%
Children Failing Grades 1, 2 & 3	6.5%
Children Testing Not Ready for the First Grade	11.1%



# GLOSSARY OF TERMS, ACRONYMS & PROGRAMS

**Advocates for Better Care (ABC)** – The statewide system designed by South Carolina to administer the Childcare program funded by the Childcare and Development Fund (CCDF).

**Childcare and Development Fund (CCDF)** – This program, authorized by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, PL 104-193, assists low-income families, families receiving temporary public assistance, and those transitioning from public assistance in obtaining Childcare so they can work or attend training/education.

**Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB)** – South Carolina's test used to measure student readiness to begin the first grade school curriculum. This test is no longer in use in the state of South Carolina.

**DHEC** – South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

**DHHS** – South Carolina Department Health and Human Services

**Dolly Parton Imagination Library** – In 1996, Dolly Parton and the Dollywood Foundation launched the children's book program Imagination Library. Starting in her hometown of Sevier County, Tennessee, the Imagination Library is now in 196 communities in 32 states and still growing. Through the program, children who are registered receive a new, hardcover, age-appropriate book each month until the age of five. Under the program, a local agency teams up with the Imagination Library to sponsor children in their town or county. A local agency/school or business sponsors the books and mailings for the children in

their community. After a child is registered, the Foundation orders and ships books from Penguin Publishing to each child.

**Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS)** – Rating scale designed to assess group programs for children of preschool through kindergarten age, 2½ through 5. Scale consists of 43 items organized into 7 subscales: (1.) space and furnishings, (2.) personal care routines, (3.) language-reasoning, (4.) activities, (5.) interactions, (6.) program structure, and (7.) parents and staff. Other similar scales include: **Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale (ITERS)** – Designed to assess group programs for children from birth to 2½ years of age.

**Family Day Care Rating Scale (FDCRS)** – Designed to assess family child care programs conducted in a provider's home. **The School-Age Care Environment Rating Scale (SACERS)** – Designed to assess group-care programs for children of school age, 5 to 12.

**Education Improvement Act (EIA)** – In 1984, the South Carolina General Assembly enacted the Education Improvement Act (EIA) as a means of reforming South Carolina's system of public education. Supported by a one-cent increase in the state sales tax, the EIA included more than 70 new programs or major revisions to existing educational statutes. The act upgraded standards for school attendance; provided financial incentives for superior performance by teachers and schools; increased standards for teacher training; established school-business partnerships; increased promotion and graduation requirements and mandated new evaluation systems for teachers and administrators.

**EFA** – Education Finance Act

**High/Scope** – An independent nonprofit research, development, training, and public advocacy organization with headquarters in Ypsilanti, Michigan. High/Scope's mission is to improve the life chances of children and youth by promoting high-quality educational programs.

**Idle Teen** – Children, aged 16-19, who are not enrolled in school and not working.

**LEA** – Local Educational Agencies

**Lifelong Improvement in Nutrition and Community (LINC)** – The South Carolina Food Stamp Nutrition Education Program. The purpose of LINC is to improve diets and food security of Food Stamp eligible South Carolinians and to expand or extend existing food and nutrition efforts and to create new opportunities to reach Food Stamp eligible populations. LINC is funded by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) and in South Carolina is managed by the Family Nutrition Programs of the Department of Social Services.

**Low Birth Weight** – Low birth weight of less than 5.5 pounds and very low birth weight of less than 3.3 pounds are associated with health risks and growth and development problems.

**National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)** – The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) is dedicated to improving the well-being of all young children, with particular focus on the quality of educational and developmental services for all children from birth through age 8. NAEYC is



## Fifth Anniversary Report 1999-2004 | Five Years of Results

committed to becoming an increasingly high performing and inclusive organization. Founded in 1926, NAEYC is the world's largest organization working on behalf of young children with more than 100,000 members, a national network of nearly 450 local, state, and regional Affiliates, and a growing global alliance of like-minded organizations.

**Parent and Child Together (PACT)** – Mission is to provide education, health, social services, parent education, and opportunities for parent and community involvement for three and four year old children and their families through Head Start programs. PACT Time consists of regularly-scheduled opportunities for parents and their children to play and work together as a way to promote literacy and language development. PACT activities build understanding of the critical role parents play in positive adult-child interactions.

**Parent-Child Home-Program (PCH-P)** – A proven, innovative home-based literacy and parenting program serving families challenged by poverty, low-levels of education, language barriers and other obstacles to educational success. Published research demonstrates that the Parent-Child Home Program prepares children to succeed in school and is a proven tool to prevent high school dropouts. PCHP participants graduate from high school at the rates of middle-class students.

**Partners for Healthy Children** – Partners for Healthy Children is a health insurance program for children. It gives free health care to children in families with low income.

**Program Evaluation Report (PER)** – Reports used by First Steps County Partnerships to evaluate a program's effectiveness.

**Project Breathe Easy** – Program created by Family Connections to provide both emotional and informational support to parents who have children with asthma. The program has proven to be an important resource for parents who participate and has shown to help reduce the number of asthma related emergency room visits; increase the number of families who have and utilize a medical home; reduce the number of days missed at school by the child with asthma as well as reduce the number of days missed at work by the caregiver; and, to increase the overall understanding by the caregiver in managing their child's asthma on a daily basis.

**Reach Out and Read (ROAR)** – a program that promotes early literacy by bringing new books and advice about the importance of reading aloud into the pediatric exam room.

**SEA** – State Educational Agencies

**South Carolina Readiness Assessment (SCRA)** – The Education Accountability Act of 1998 requires that the Department of Education develop or select readiness assessment to determine students' readiness for first and second grade. SCRA is an unobtrusive measure that relies on teacher observation and documentation. It is an adaptation of the Work Sampling System, and was field-tested statewide in 2000-01. The EAA provides that the results of the assessment are not to be used for either the retention of students or accountability. The assessment system is checklist-based and relies of the collection of information during intervals within the school year. Completed checklists are submitted for state scoring at the end of the school year.

**Title I** – This program provides financial assistance through the SC Department of State to local

educational agencies (LEAs) and public schools with high numbers or percentages of poor children to help ensure that all children meet challenging State academic content and student academic achievement standards. LEAs target the Title I funds they receive to public schools with the highest percentages of children from low-income families.

**US Problem Ratios** – Ratios that determine rank in overall child well being. Those ratios include low birth weight babies, infant mortality rate, child death rate, violent teen deaths (15-19), teen birth rate, idle teens (16-19), kids in poverty and single parent families with children.



# ENDNOTES

- <sup>1</sup> National Goals Panel, <http://www.negp.gov/issues/publication/negpdocs/38.html>
- <sup>2</sup> High/Scope's Perry Preschool Study, <http://www.highscope.org/Research/PerryProject/PerryAge40SumWeb.pdf>
- <sup>3</sup> High/Scope Perry Preschool Project Findings, <http://www.highscope.org/Research/PerryProject/perryfact.htm>.
- <sup>4</sup> Due to some programs inability to acquire personal data (i.e., social security number, name, etc.), First Steps does not have the ability to offer a completely unduplicated figure of children served.
- <sup>5</sup> Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB), SC Department of Education. <http://www.myschools.com/reports/csab99/district.htm>
- <sup>6</sup> National Goals Panel, <http://www.negp.gov/issues/publication/negpdocs/38.html>
- <sup>7</sup> National Governor's Association's Building the Foundations for Bright Futures: Report of the NGA Task Force on School Readiness
- <sup>8</sup> "Ghosts From the Nursery: Tracing the Roots of Violence," Robin Karr-Morse co-author
- <sup>9</sup> Shonkoff, J., & Phillips, D. (Eds.) (2000). National Research Council and Institute of Medicine. *From Neurons to Neighborhoods: The Science of Early Childhood Development*. Washington, DC: National Academy Press; and Bowman, B.T., Donovan, M.S., Burns, M.S. (eds.), *Eager to Learn: Educating our Preschoolers*, National Research Council, Committee on Early Childhood Pedagogy, National Research Council, Commission on Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. Washington, DC: National Academy Press, 2001.
- <sup>10</sup> School Readiness Indicators Initiative, <http://www.gettingready.org/gettingready/matriarch/>
- <sup>11</sup> South Carolina Readiness Assessment 2002-2003, South Carolina Department of Education
- <sup>12</sup> Local School Districts though Individual First Steps County Offices
- <sup>13</sup> Current Population Survey, SC Office of Research and Statistics
- <sup>14</sup> South Carolina Kids Count 2003, <http://www.sckidscount.org/kc03.asp?COUNTYID=47#Scholastic>
- <sup>15</sup> SC Department of Education, Office of Research
- <sup>16</sup> South Carolina Budget and Control Board, <http://www.ors2.state.sc.us/abstract/chapter1/staterank6.asp>
- <sup>17</sup> SC Kids Count 2004, [http://www.sckidscount.org/trends/sctr\\_mom\\_hs.asp?COUNTYID=47](http://www.sckidscount.org/trends/sctr_mom_hs.asp?COUNTYID=47)
- <sup>18</sup> SC Kids Count 2003, Data from 2000. <http://www.sckidscount.org/kc03.asp?COUNTYID=47#Family>
- <sup>19</sup> SC Kids Count 2003, <http://www.sckidscount.org/kc03.asp?COUNTYID=47 - Family>
- <sup>20</sup> SC Kids Count 2003, <http://www.sckidscount.org/kc03.asp?COUNTYID=47 - Family>
- <sup>21</sup> SC Kids Count 2004, <http://www.sckidscount.org/report04/single04.html>
- <sup>22</sup> SC Kids Count 2003, <http://www.sckidscount.org/kc03.asp?COUNTYID=47 - Family>
- <sup>23</sup> SC Kids Count 2004, <http://www.sckidscount.org/kc03.asp?COUNTYID=47#Family>
- <sup>24</sup> NAEYC, <http://www.naeyc.org/accreditation/search/state.asp?state=SC>
- <sup>25</sup> SC Kids Count 2003, <http://www.sckidscount.org/kc03.asp?COUNTYID=47#Health>. This number is calculated by multiplying the percentage of children under the age of 6 (318,543/1,009,641) times the number of uninsured children under 18 (128,614).
- <sup>26</sup> SC Kids Count 2004, <http://www.sckidscount.org/kc03.asp?COUNTYID=47#Health>
- <sup>27</sup> SC Kids Count 2004, <http://www.sckidscount.org/kc03.asp?COUNTYID=47#Health>
- <sup>28</sup> SC DHEC 2002, [http://www.scdhec.net/co/phis/biostatistics/an\\_pubs/2002IMRNIMRPNIMR.pdf](http://www.scdhec.net/co/phis/biostatistics/an_pubs/2002IMRNIMRPNIMR.pdf)
- <sup>29</sup> SC Kids Count 2004, <http://www.sckidscount.org/kc03.asp?COUNTYID=47#Health>
- <sup>30</sup> SC Kids Count 2002, <http://www.sckidscount.org/report04/casey04.pdf>
- <sup>31</sup> High/Scope's Perry Preschool Study, <http://www.highscope.org/Research/PerryProject/PerryAge40SumWeb.pdf>
- <sup>32</sup> Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, High/Scope Educational Research Foundation. <http://www.dollywoodfoundation.com/news.php>
- <sup>33</sup> Perry Preschool Study, High/Scope. <http://www.highscope.org/Research/PerryProject/perryfact.htm>
- <sup>34</sup> Per hour rate determined by non-profit, non-partisan group, Independent Sector. For 2004, [http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer\\_time.html](http://www.independentsector.org/programs/research/volunteer_time.html).
- <sup>35</sup> Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, December 2003, <http://minneapolisfed.org/research/studies/earlychild/>
- <sup>36</sup> High/Scope's Perry Preschool Study, <http://www.highscope.org/Research/PerryProject/PerryAge40SumWeb.pdf>
- <sup>37</sup> SC Kids Count 2004, <http://www.sckidscount.org/CASEY/rightstart04.html>
- <sup>38</sup> SC Kids Count 2003. <http://www.sckidscount.org/kc03.asp?COUNTYID=47 - Ready>
- <sup>39</sup> The SC Kids Count report provides the figures for the First Steps funding model. South Carolina is one of 50 state projects currently publishing state and local profiles of the condition of children as part of the nationwide Kids Count project funded by The Annie E. Casey Foundation, the nation's largest philanthropic organization devoted exclusively to disadvantaged children. The Annie E. Casey Foundation has given South Carolina an opportunity to compile and disseminate data about children for each of the 46 counties in our state. The South Carolina Budget and Control Board in collaboration with the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and many partners committed to the children in South Carolina administers SC Kids Count. <http://www.sckidscount.org>
- <sup>40</sup> <http://www.sckidscount.org/report04/map04.html>
- <sup>41</sup> Child Trends Study, Program Evaluation Report 1999-2002. This data came from the Decennial Census 2000, South Carolina Kids Count and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.
- <sup>42</sup> Poverty: SC Kids Count 2004. Casey Foundation Initiatives. Average 2000-2002 data except Kids w/Single Parent & Kids in Poverty (2000 data). <http://www.sckidscount.org/special.html>.
- <sup>43</sup> Poverty: SC Kids Count 2004. Casey Foundation Initiatives. Average 2000-2002 data except Kids w/Single Parent & Kids in Poverty (2000 data). <http://www.sckidscount.org/special.html>.
- <sup>44</sup> Medicare %: SC Kids Count 2003's Medicaid Enrollment Data divided by population under 6 2000. [http://www.sckidscount.org/medicaid.asp?main=medicaid&r1=m01\\_none&cnty=South+Carolina](http://www.sckidscount.org/medicaid.asp?main=medicaid&r1=m01_none&cnty=South+Carolina)
- <sup>45</sup> SC Department of Education, Department of Research
- <sup>46</sup> South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control 2003
- <sup>47</sup> Birth Risks: Casey Foundation Initiatives. Average 2000-2002 data. <http://www.sckidscount.org/special.html>
- <sup>48</sup> Birth Risks: Casey Foundation Initiatives. Average 2000-2002 data. <http://www.sckidscount.org/special.html>
- <sup>49</sup> South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
- <sup>50</sup> Birth Risks: Casey Foundation Initiatives. Average 2000-2002 data. <http://www.sckidscount.org/special.html>
- <sup>51</sup> South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control
- <sup>52</sup> 4-K: South Carolina Department of Research. Failing and Testing: SC Kids Count 2004. Casey Foundation Initiatives. Average 2000-2002 data. <http://www.sckidscount.org/special.html>
- <sup>53</sup> Child Trends Study, Program Evaluation Report 1999-2002. The number of children in 4K is based on the first forty-five days of the 2001-2002 school year. This number does not include Head Start or private 4K. The denominator of the percentage of all children enrolled in 4K is from the 2000 census.
- <sup>54</sup> Local School Districts though Individual First Steps County Offices
- <sup>55</sup> SC Kids Count 2002 Data. <http://www.sckidscount.org/report03/fail123.htm>
- <sup>56</sup> SC Kids Count 2001 Data. <http://www.sckidscount.org/report03/csab.htm>

## FAST FACTS:

National Institute of Early Education Research, <http://nieer.org/yearbook/>





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printing of this report.

